



Miami-Dade County Public Schools

giving our students the world

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August 27, 2007

To Whom It May Concern:

Miami-Dade County Public Schools (MDCPS) is the fourth largest school district in the nation. Our school population is 59% Hispanic, 29% Black, 10% White, and the rest American Indian, Asian, and multiracial. There are many challenges in providing adequate services to our diverse students. One of our most trusted and invaluable community resources is YES Institute.

We have worked closely with YES Institute for the past ten years. They provide education and support for our counselors, teachers, students, and administrators. We now schedule a yearly meeting for all counselors and Safe School Specialists at the YES Institute Education Center for the latest YES workshops on gender and orientation. This past school year, YES presented their new Transgender 101 course to MDCPS counselors, teachers, and social workers, as transgender youth are becoming increasingly visible in the school environment.

Additionally, when crisis situations or specific requests arise, I regularly refer faculty, parents, and students to YES Institute for consultation and education.

I highly recommend YES Institute as a resource for any school district that needs education on these topics. Not only do they offer the most cutting-edge knowledge, they do it in a manner that assures win/win outcomes, and have never caused any contention or controversy. I also offer myself as a resource to parents and school personnel who now find themselves having to respond to these topics.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 305-995-7560.

Sincerely,

Tony Valdo
Educational Specialist
Division of Student Services