

## **Multicultural Education Miami-Dade County Public Schools**

Multicultural education is an integral part of the K-12 curriculum and instructional program in Miami-Dade County Public Schools. Rather than merely celebrating the contributions of various racial, ethnic, religious, or cultural, or gender groups during typical month-long celebrations such as Hispanic Heritage Month or Black History Month, M-DCPS provides year-round opportunities for students to study the rich diversity that exists within the local community and nation.

The District's *Student Progression Plan* require that all students, K-12, receive instruction in African American history, the Holocaust, Hispanic contributions to United States history, and women's contributions to United States history. These requirements are embedded in the K-12 curriculum, most notably in the required social studies curriculum. A Cultural Awareness component is outlined in each required social studies class or course, grades K-12.

The following is a brief summary of the multicultural instructional requirements outlined in State Statute and the District's *Student Progression Plan* and the efforts taken by District staff to provide instructional support for these requirements.

### **African-American History**

- In 1994, the Florida Legislature amended State Statute 233.061 (currently F.S. 1003.42) to require instruction in "the history of African Americans, including the history of African peoples before the political conflicts that led to the development of slavery, the passage to America, the enslavement experience, abolition, and the contributions of African Americans to society."
- The *Student Progression Plan* for Miami-Dade County Public Schools requires that all students, K-12, receive instruction in African-American history.
- Each year, each school in the District identifies a teacher to serve as the school's African American History Advocate. The Advocate serves as the school's liaison to the District and provides support for the African American history requirement. The Advocates are provided with professional development from District staff and receive information regarding special programs and events through an e-mail network.
- Comprehensive instructional materials have been developed by the District to support the study of African American history. *African American Voices and Tapestry of Many Voices - African American Multimedia Bibliography* have been developed by the District to support the requirement.
- Additional instructional resource materials are developed each year to support the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday, African American History Month, and

Haitian Heritage Month. Staff also coordinates all special programs, professional development activities and competitions for students to further support the African American History requirement.

### **Holocaust Requirement**

- In 1994, the Florida Legislature amended State Statute 233.061 (currently F.S. 1003.42) to require instruction in “the history of the Holocaust (1933-1945), the systematic, planned annihilation of European Jews and other groups by Nazi Germany, a watershed event in the history of humanity, to be taught in a manner that leads to an investigation of human behavior, an understanding of the ramifications of prejudice, racism, and stereotyping, and an examination of what it means to be a responsible and respectful person, for the purposes of encouraging tolerance of diversity in a pluralistic society and for nurturing and protecting democratic values and institutions.”
- *The Student Progression Plan* for Miami-Dade County Public Schools requires Holocaust education for all students, K-12.
- The Holocaust State Task Force developed the *State of Florida Resource Manual on Holocaust Education* to support the requirement. Each year, District staff also develops additional materials for Holocaust Remembrance.
- District staff provides professional development for teachers on the Holocaust, including a two-week summer institute co-sponsored by the University of Miami.

### **Hispanic Contributions to the United States Requirement**

- In 1998, the Florida Legislature amended State Statute 233.061 (currently F.S. 1003.42) to require instruction in “Hispanic contributions to the United States.”
- *The Student Progression Plan* requires the study of Hispanic contributions to the United States through the required K-12 social studies instructional program.
- *Legado - Hispanic American History Resource Guide* and *Tapestry of Many Voices - Hispanic American Multimedia Bibliography* have been developed by the District to support the requirement.
- Additional instructional resource materials are developed each year to support Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15-October 15). Staff also coordinates all special programs and professional development activities related to Hispanic heritage.

## **Women's Contributions to the United States Requirement**

- In 1998, the Florida Legislature amended State Statute 233.061 (currently F.S. 1003.42) to require instruction in "women's contributions to the United States."
- *The Student Progression Plan* requires the study of women's contributions to the United States through the required K-12 social studies instructional program.
- *Faces - A Journey Through Women's History* has been developed by the District to support the requirement.
- Additional instructional resource materials are developed each year to support Women's History Month (March). Staff also coordinates all special programs and professional development activities related to women's history.