



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

### **Primary Learning Center**

The Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) Primary Learning Center (PLC) was conceived during the summer of 2009 as an initiative of Mr. Alberto M. Carvalho, Superintendent of Schools. His vision was to create a laboratory demonstration school that combines the best practices in early childhood from a plethora of research-based national models. The PLC opened its doors on August 24, 2009 with Mr. Carvalho as the principal of the school. It is conveniently located at the administrative hub of M-DCPS with direct access to experts in the curriculum and instruction fields, available to share and assist with the implementation of the latest trends in early childhood teaching and learning. The school's unique location provides a viable opportunity for district and surrounding area business employees to have their children attend the PLC.

#### **Vision Statement**

The Primary Learning Center is committed to preparing young children to successfully meet the unique challenges and opportunities facing them as global citizens in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

#### **Mission Statement**

The mission of the Primary Learning Center is to provide a high-quality, developmentally appropriate, international education for young children in preparation for their successful participation as global citizens of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

The Early Childhood  
Initiative Foundation



Teach More/Love More  
[www.teachmorelovemore.org](http://www.teachmorelovemore.org)

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The Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe is a nonprofit organization dedicated to ensuring early care and education for children in Miami-Dade and Monroe counties. Through a variety of affordable and innovative early education and voluntary pre-kindergarten programs, the Coalition serves more than 50,000 children ages birth to 12-years-old and their families. For additional information, visit our website at [www.elcmdm.org](http://www.elcmdm.org).

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## Background

The Children's Trust is a dedicated source of funding created by voter referendum in 2002 to improve the lives of children and families in Miami-Dade County by making strategic investments in their future – because all children are our children.

The Trust focuses its investments in the areas of health, development and safety and to increasing parental and community responsibility in children.

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<http://www.thechildrenstrust.org/>



The mission of the University of Florida Lastinger Center for Learning is to utilize the intellectual and research capabilities of the University of Florida to partner with educational, philanthropic and community-based institutions to promote high quality teaching, improve school performance, develop educational leaders, secure parental engagement, and mobilize communities to meet the needs of children. More information on the Lastinger Center can be found at: <http://lastinger.education.ufl.edu/>

In Miami-Dade, the Lastinger Center is a key collaborator in the Ready Schools Miami initiative. Ready Schools Miami is a multi-year, multi-partner effort to improve the quality of early childhood education and service from birth through elementary school. The partners also include Miami-Dade County Public Schools, The Early Childhood Initiative Foundation, the Children's Trust, the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe, the United Way of Miami-Dade, and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. The partners aim to achieve five outcomes: (1) Developing master teachers, (2) Maximizing administrative leadership, (3) Engaging parents and community, (4) Ensuring effective transitions, and (5) Promoting health and child well-being. The partners pursue these objectives through ongoing, job-embedded professional development and services, including a nationally acclaimed graduate program provided through tuition-free scholarships to teachers in partner schools. In addition, professional development courses are provided through the district's professional development portal, reaching over 1300 educators in the 2009-2010 school year alone, including principals, teachers, and community involvement specialists. The success of these efforts led the partnership to be recognized nationally by the U.S. Department of Education when the Florida Master Teacher Initiative, a direct outgrowth of the Ready Schools Miami partnership, was selected for grant funding in the Investing in Innovation (i3) Grant Program. More information on Ready Schools Miami can be found at <http://readyschoolsmiami.org>.



#### ABOUT INFORMED FAMILIES

A non-profit organization founded in 1982, the mission of Informed Families is *helping kids grow up safe, healthy and drug-free*. Informed Families focuses on educating, involving and empowering parents to work together to set boundaries and monitor their children's behavior to prevent underage drinking, substance abuse and other harmful behaviors. Affiliated with the National Family Partnership, Informed Families is best known for being the Florida Sponsor of the National Red Ribbon Campaign. Informed Families also boasts multiple school and community based prevention programs targeting youth, parents and communities. For more information on Informed Families, please visit our website at [www.informedfamilies.org](http://www.informedfamilies.org), or call us at (305) 856-4886.



The Healthy Start Coalition of Miami-Dade (HSCMD) is the lead organization in Miami-Dade County for providing services in Maternal, Infant and Child Health. Our target population includes women of childbearing age, pregnant women and infants from birth to three years. Our primary goals are to reduce the rates of infant mortality, pre-term birth and low birth weight, improve women's health and pregnancy outcomes, promote the enhanced development of infants and toddlers and improve the community's knowledge and awareness about our various services.

Implemented on April 1, 1992, Healthy Start legislation provides for universal risk screening of all Florida's pregnant women and newborn infants to identify risk of poor birth, health and developmental outcomes. ALL pregnant women and infants are eligible to receive a FREE Healthy Start Risk Screen regardless of their socio-economic or immigration status. Healthy Start services include outreach, care coordination, childbirth education, parenting education and support, nutrition counseling, psychosocial counseling, tobacco cessation counseling, breastfeeding education and support, and interconceptional education and counseling.

**Web:** [www.hscmd.org](http://www.hscmd.org)



Switchboard of Miami, Inc. established in 1968, is a private, nonprofit organization that provides the Miami-Dade County community with comprehensive telephone crisis counseling, suicide prevention, information and referral services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Our agency also offers free individual and family counseling services and prevention programs for high-risk youth and their families based in local schools.

211 Children's Trust Helpline

211

TTY: (305) 644-9449

National Suicide Prevention Hotline

1 800 SUICIDE

Switchboard Helpline

(305) 358-HELP

(305) 644-9449 (TTY)

Hot Topics: Budget Cuts, Jobs, Oil Spill, Mortgage Foreclosures.  
Counselors available 24 / 7 / 365, in English, Spanish, and Creole