

MIAMI BEACH

TO: Mayor Dan Gelber and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Ricky Arriola, City Commissioner

DATE: January 10, 2019

SUBJECT: EARLY CHILDHOOD FUNDING

Strong early childhood education helps children build a foundation of skills, knowledge, and approaches to learning necessary to succeed in school and life. Voluntary pre-k (VPK) is critical for long-term educational success. Unfortunately, Florida ranks 42nd out of 50 states in per-student funding. Miami Beach must lead in early childhood education and think strategically on how it can better attract and keep young families.

New York City and Denver have both implemented pre-k funding programs that are recognized nationwide and by their constituents as being tremendously popular and beneficial. The Denver program, having been initially established by the city government, was recently reauthorized with great support by voters.

I ask the Finance and Economic Resiliency Committee to discuss supplementing voluntary pre-k funding for Miami Beach families.