FAQs
Frequently Asked Questions

Distribution of Funds

Who is eligible for the compensation increase?
All instructional staff will receive supplemental compensation. Instructional staff compensation is continually evaluated, and adjustments are made annually through the collective bargaining process.

How will the referendum affect teachers' retirement benefits?
Increases to compensation funded by the referendum will contribute to employees' retirement.

Will all teachers receive the same amount, or will it be distributed based on years of service?
Compensation details will be addressed through the collective bargaining process, including adjustments specific to mid- and late-career teachers.

Will referendum funds also be used to place more paraprofessionals and fill open teaching positions to help with class sizes?
Referendum funds will be used to increase compensation of existing instructional personnel as well as those who fill open positions.

How will the funds be distributed among charter, private, Title I and non-Title I schools?
Private schools are not eligible for these funds. Charter school eligibility is yet to be determined. Title I status is not relevant as funds will be used for compensation for instructional personnel, not schools.

Will referendum funds also be allocated to provide better resources for students as well as athletic equipment and musical instruments?
Funds will not be distributed to schools. The funding is for instructional personnel compensation and to hire additional school police.

School Safety

How long will police officers be at school sites?
This funding ensures a permanently placed police officer at each school from opening bell to closing bell while children are present.

Why are sworn police officers at every school a priority?
The Florida Legislature mandated a police officer at each school. Furthermore, highly trained officers at every school provide a greater caliber of safety and security.

More officers, does that mean more students arrested?
No, School Resource Officers are specifically trained to work with students.

Legal

Why are we unable to take funds from the lottery, millage, GOB, or state?
The school district receives no lottery monies. Lottery funds pay for Bright Future Scholarships and School Recognition Funds. General Obligation Bond monies can only be spent on capital improvements.

Will the referendum dollars be additional to state funding?
Yes, referendum dollars are additional to state funding.

How will the referendum affect taxes? Will the $232 million be generated each year, or during the four-year period?
The typical homeowner will see an increase of about 39 cents a day, or $12 per month, to increase teacher compensation and improve safety and security in our schools. The impact of this is $75 for each $100,000 in assessed property value. The monies will be generated annually. A cost calculation based on property value is at secureourfuture.dadeschools.net.

When will the funds be collected and allocated?
Funds will be collected through property taxes and be available beginning July 1, 2019.

How does this referendum compare to the initiatives our neighboring counties are taking? Broward County and other neighboring counties have passed similar referendums.

Will the funds be kept in Miami, or will Tallahassee control their distribution? How can we trust ALL the funds will go where we have been promised they will?
The funds will be monitored by a local oversight committee and will be collected here and stay here. These funds are levied locally for the benefit of students in Miami-Dade only.

Oversight Committee

How will the committee be selected, composed and monitored? Who is responsible for this task?
The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida has created a committee that shall be comprised of seventeen (17) voting and four (4) non-voting members. No members may be School Board employees. Members will be appointed by each Board member and two by the Superintendent. Others will include the PTA/PTSA President, the Chair of the Audit and Budget Advisory Committee, representatives from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the Spanish American League Against Discrimination, the Business Advisory Council, the Family/Community Involvement Advisory Council and other Ex-Officio Non-Voting Members.

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On the November 6, 2018 Ballot!
#SecureOurFuture