

Miami-Dade County Public Schools Honored Again for Producing Among the Strongest Urban Student Gains in America; Named Finalist for 2012 Broad Prize for Urban Education

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Contact: Erica Lepping
310.954.5053, elepping@broadfoundation.org

LOS ANGELES –Miami-Dade County Public Schools was named today by [The Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation](#) as one of four urban school districts in the country selected as a finalist for the 2012 [Broad Prize for Urban Education](#). If the district wins the award this fall, Miami-Dade County high school seniors who graduate in 2013 will receive \$550,000 in college scholarships, but they are guaranteed at least \$150,000 in college scholarships since the district is a finalist. This marks the fifth year Miami-Dade County Public Schools has been a finalist for the award.

The Broad (rhymes with “road”) Prize for Urban Education is an annual \$1 million award—the largest education prize in the country—that honors urban school districts that demonstrate the greatest overall performance and improvement in student achievement while reducing achievement gaps among poor and minority students. The winner of the Broad Prize receives \$550,000 in college scholarships while each of the three finalist districts receives \$150,000 in college scholarships, for a total distribution of \$1 million in Broad Prize scholarships.

The other finalists this year are: nearby School District of Palm Beach County, Fla., Corona-Norco Unified School District in Riverside County, Calif. and the Houston Independent School District.

The winner of the 2012 Broad Prize will be announced on Tuesday, Oct. 23 in New York City at the Museum of Modern Art.

“As other urban school districts in Florida and across the country struggle to create public school environments that enable students of all backgrounds to learn and thrive, Miami-Dade has made important strides,” said Eli Broad, founder of The Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation. “Although the district still has room to improve, in light of substantial education budget cuts in recent years, continued student gains like these that outpace other urban districts nationwide are particularly impressive.”

Seventy-five of the nation’s largest urban school districts were automatically eligible and considered for The Broad Prize. School districts cannot apply or be nominated.

This year’s four finalists were selected by a [review board](#) of 13 prominent education researchers, policy leaders, practitioners and executives from leading universities, education associations, civil rights advocates, think-tanks and foundations. The review board evaluated publicly available academic achievement data that were compiled and analyzed by [MPR Associates, Inc.](#), a leading national education research consulting firm.

In selecting the finalists, the review board looks for urban school districts that show the greatest overall performance and improvement in urban student achievement while reducing achievement gaps among poor and minority students. Among the data they consider are SAT, ACT and Advanced Placement participation rates and outcomes, graduation rates, state assessments in reading, math and science, the National Assessment of Educational Progress, student demographics including poverty, state test rigor, per pupil expenditures and district size. The Broad Foundation does not play a role in selecting the finalists or the winner.

Among the reasons that Miami-Dade County was chosen as a 2012 Broad Prize finalist:

- **A greater percentage of Hispanic and Black students reached advanced academic levels in Miami-Dade than in other urban districts in Florida.** In 2011, the percentage of Miami-Dade's Hispanic students performing at the highest achievement levels (Levels 4 and 5) ranked in the top 30 percent statewide compared with Hispanic students in other Florida districts. Miami-Dade's Hispanic students outperformed their peers in reading and math at all school levels (elementary, middle, and high school) and in elementary and middle school science. Between 2008 and 2011, Miami-Dade was also more successful than at least 70 percent of Florida districts at increasing the percentage of Black students who performed at the highest achievement levels in elementary and high school reading, math, and science. For example, the percentage of Miami-Dade's Black students performing at the highest achievement levels in elementary school math increased by 6 percentage points, while the average increase for other Florida districts was 4 percentage points.
- **Black and Hispanic graduation rates increased faster in Miami-Dade than in other urban districts nationally.** Miami-Dade's Black and Hispanic graduation rates, as shown by the average of three nationally recognized graduation rate estimation methods, both increased 14 percentage points from 2006 to 2009.
- **Increased percentage of students participating in college readiness exams – and their scores – more than other urban districts nationally.** Between 2008 and 2011, participation rates and scores on the SAT exam simultaneously increased for all students in Miami-Dade, as well as for Black and Hispanic students separately. For example, SAT participation by Hispanic students increased 6 percentage points and SAT scores increased 15 points during this period.

Miami-Dade County returns as a finalist for the fifth year, having been a finalist in 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2011—tying the record of Broad Prize winners Boston Public Schools and the Long Beach Unified School District.

Over the next two months, teams of educational researchers and practitioners led by the education consulting company [RMC Research Corporation](#) will conduct a four-day site visit in each finalist district using a research-based rubric for district quality to gather qualitative information, interview district administrators, conduct focus groups with teachers and principals and observe classrooms. The teams will also interview parents, community leaders, school board members and union representatives. A [selection jury](#) of prominent individuals from business, industry, education and public service will then choose the winning school district after reviewing both the student achievement data and the qualitative site visit reports.

Recent Broad Prize winners were Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, N.C. (2011), Gwinnett County Public Schools outside Atlanta (2010), and the Aldine Independent School District near Houston (2009).

For more information about The Broad Prize, please visit www.broadprize.org.

Founded by self-made entrepreneur Eli Broad and his wife Edythe, both graduates of Detroit Public Schools, The Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation is a philanthropy that seeks to ensure that every student in an urban public school has the opportunity to succeed. Bringing together top education experts and practitioners, the foundation funds system-wide programs and policies that strengthen public schools by creating environments that allow good teachers to do great work and enable students of all backgrounds to learn and thrive. The Broad Foundation's Internet address is www.broadeducation.org, and updates are available on Twitter @broadfoundation.

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