

DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SCHOOL BOARD ADMINISTRATION BUILDING • 1450 NORTHEAST SECOND AVENUE • MIAMI, FLORIDA 33132

OCTAVIO J. VISIEDO
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

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March 21, 1994

Ms. Iris C. Rotberg
Program Director
National Science Foundation
4201 Wilson Blvd.
Arlington, VA 22230

Dear Ms. Rotberg:

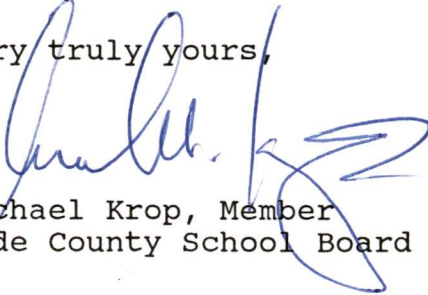
I read with great interest your Educational Week article titled "Separate and Unequal." I must take issue with your statement that greater and equal expenditures will make a difference in reaching parity between rich and poor districts. Your emphasis on the financial aspects is not in keeping with our own experience.

Dade County is the 4th largest school district in the nation, and Florida's method of funding schools is probably among the most equitable in the nation. Our own district has a per pupil expenditure which is enhanced by additional funding for the educationally disadvantaged and for students with special needs. By and large, we are already doing what you seem to be crusading for, but without the success you think will result.

Money is important. But to emphasize it as a panacea, without making the necessary changes that must accompany its infusion, will just amount to the same quality of educational, but at greater cost.

I invite you to think of schools that you know to be successful, and decide whether money is the real reason that they are successful. I think not!

Very truly yours,



Michael Krop, Member
Dade County School Board