

## New School Health News in Miami-Dade

Thanks to an effort involving The Children's Trust, Miami-Dade Public Schools, and Miami-Dade County's health department, 29 area schools began the academic year with a nurse or nurse practitioner on staff, as well as a health aide and social worker.

The goal is to expand the program to all Miami-Dade schools within five years, according to the Children's Trust.

The program, called HealthConnect in Our Schools, will assess and treat children for physical and mental health problems. The focus will be on preventive care for all kids, regardless of their insurance status, but social workers will try to determine which students are eligible for Medicaid or KidCare, Florida's health insurance program.

The program will cost \$40 million a year to run, paid for by the trust, the school district, and the health department. They will contribute \$10 million, \$7 million, and \$3 million, respectively.

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