



3. gives preference to teachers who teach in schools where there are anticipated openings because of DROP and who have the principals' recommendations;
4. provides current teachers with a program which has textbooks and other incidental fees or supplies as its only costs; and
5. requires teachers participating in this program to continue teaching for five full years in M-DCPS after the completion of the degree.

The Professional Services Contracts Committee established by School Board Rule 6Gx13-3F-1.021 reviewed this item on March 18, 1999, and has recommended that an exception to the rule be made as this vendor has specific expertise in the field.

Authorization is requested to enter into a contractual agreement with the University of South Florida to provide an advanced degree program leading to a Master of Arts Degree in Library and Information Science with Florida School Media Certification. The program will be offered to 30 current elementary and secondary teachers beginning in August 1999 and to an additional 30 elementary and secondary teachers beginning in August 2000. The cost per graduate credit is \$160.38 for a total of 39 graduate credits. The District's Tuition Reimbursement Account will provide \$130 per graduate credit, and the Title II-Eisenhower Professional Development Program will provide the difference in tuition costs. The total cost of this program will be \$375,289.20 for 60 teachers. Any tuition increase will be funded by the Title II-Eisenhower Professional Development Program.

**RECOMMENDED:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida:

1. authorize the Superintendent to enter into a contractual agreement with the University of South Florida to provide an advanced degree program in Library and Information Science with Florida School Media Certification for elementary and secondary teachers beginning in either August 1999 or August 2000 for a total cost of \$375,289.20 for 60 teachers; and
2. grant an exception to School Board Rule 6Gx13-3F-1.021.

The appropriation for this item will be included in the District Tuition Reimbursement Fund and the Title II – Eisenhower Professional Development Program budget.