

Education  
Joseph H. Mathos, Deputy Superintendent

**SUBJECT:** REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH WALDEN COMMUNITY SCHOOL, INC., TO HAVE ACCESS TO FOUR RESIDENTIAL PLACEMENTS FOR EXCEPTIONAL STUDENTS REFERRED BY MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS, FROM JULY 1, 1999 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2000

**STRATEGIC PLANNING GOAL:** II - STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT/PREPARATION FOR POST SECONDARY EXPERIENCES

Authorization is requested to enter into a cooperative agreement with Walden Community School, Inc., to have access to four residential placements for exceptional students, from July 1, 1999 through June 30, 2000. Walden Community School, Inc., is a residential treatment program designed to serve adolescents with emotional problems in a community-based residential facility. The program is located in Miami Springs, Florida, and is designed to serve adolescents, ages 13 through 18, who have been referred by the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) Case Review Committee.

The students who are placed by Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) will be determined by a district staffing committee to be in need of a residential program. Referrals from M-DCPS are subject to review and approval by the Executive Director of Walden Community School, Inc., and the DCF Case Review Committee.

Authorization is requested for the Superintendent to exercise his discretion to renew the cooperative agreement for up to two additional one-year periods. Walden Community School, Inc., has agreed to provide access to these beds for a minimum of three years.

There is no exchange of funds for this agreement.

This cooperative agreement is being brought to the Board as a companion item to Board Item H-22, in order to enter into a lease agreement with the Department of Juvenile Justice for the construction of a Juvenile Justice facility on vacant Board-owned land.

The Director of Walden Community School, Inc., is Dr. Harry Henshaw.

**RECOMMENDED:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to:

1. enter into a cooperative agreement with Walden Community School, Inc., to have access to four residential placements for exceptional students referred by Miami-Dade County Public Schools, from July 1, 1999 through June 30, 2000; and
2. renew the cooperative agreement for up to two additional one-year periods.

There is no exchange of funds for this agreement.

RKF/gb