

Financial Affairs
Richard H. Hinds, Chief Financial Officer

SUBJECT: SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE THRIFT (SIT) AWARD APPLICATION

During the special legislative session in November of 1997, the legislature appropriated \$200 million in incentive funding for the SIT Program as part of a series of measures intended to relieve school overcrowding. Districts may apply for Charter SIT awards only if the charter school is housed in a non-school district facility and only after the charter school is in operation over a year. The award is based on the premise that districts save on new construction costs through the adoption of charter schools. Awards are calculated by the following formula:

$$\text{Award} = \frac{1}{2} \times \text{number of students} \times \text{cost per student station}$$

The number of students in the charter school is reported from the average October and February counts (FTEuw) and the cost per student station is a statewide average of construction costs compiled by the state as follows:

<u>School</u>	<u>Cost per student station</u>	<u>SIT Student Allocation</u>
Elementary	\$11,600	\$5,800
Middle	\$13,300	\$6,650
Senior	\$17,600	\$8,800

Limited to a one time funding per student seat, subsequent SIT awards for the same charter school may be granted only with increases in the number of charter students being served.

Although districts are not obligated by law to share this revenue with the charter school, the School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida adopted a revenue sharing policy on August 26, 1998. This policy allows for a maximum of 40% of Charter SIT awards to be shared with the charter school, subject to contract negotiations, provided all provisions of the charter school contract are met, and contingent upon a district-approved capital projects plan from the charter school.

A SIT award application for the Liberty City Charter school has been completed and provides a listing of the intended projects to be funded from the award. The award was received on December 22, 1998 from the Smart Schools Clearinghouse with the understanding that a completed application would subsequently be submitted.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County:

- (1) approve the SIT award application,
- (2) authorize the Board Chair to sign the application on behalf of the Board,
- (3) authorize submission of the application to the SMART Schools Clearinghouse.

REPLACEMENT

G-1

SIT Award Application Form

Charter School

Miami-Dade County

District Name: Public Schools

To apply for a SIT Grant, complete the following information and submit this form to:
 SMART Schools Clearinghouse, 4050 Esplanade Way, Suite 250, Tallahassee, FL 32399-0950.

Date of Approval by School Board: _____

For School Year: 1997-98

CHARTER SCHOOL INFORMATION		COST SUMMARY (to be completed by Clearinghouse staff only)	
Liberty City Charter School Charter School Name 8700 N.W. 5th Avenue Street Address Miami, FL 33150 City, State, Zip Code (305) 751-2700 Telephone Number		Capital Outlay - FTE Elementary 135 Middle School _____ High School _____	Student Station x State Cost \$ 11,600 = Elementary Savings \$ 1,566,000 x State Cost \$ _____ = Middle Savings \$ _____ x State Cost \$ _____ = High Savings \$ _____ Subtotal _____ \$ _____ Multiply Subtotal by 50% _____ X .50 SIT Award Recommendation _____ \$ 783,000
Total student stations saved 135		Clearinghouse staff to complete: Verification and Comments	
Prior total to exceed to receive additional SIT Program Award .. 0			
Current SS eligible for SIT Award 135			

Please provide brief responses to the following. Attach pages if necessary.

1. Briefly describe the academic program being offered and the current charter school facilities, including the site size, and the type, age, and condition of the facilities housing the charter school program. Indicate whether the facility is leased, lease-purchased, or owned by the charter school, and include a front-view photograph of the school. See Attachment A

2. Briefly describe future plans (2-5 years) for the charter school in terms of facility growth, relocation, renovation, purchase of buildings or land, new construction, etc., whereby the charter school intends to provide quality, stable facilities for public students and long-term cost avoidance for the state. See Attachment A

3. The purpose of the legislation is to ensure long-term cost avoidance and quality facilities "through the operation of charter schools in non-school-district facilities". Is there a plan for the local school district to distribute a portion of these funds to the charter school which generated these funds. No ___ Yes X If yes, what percent? 40 See Attachment B

CERTIFICATION / APPROVAL SIGNATURES

The undersigned District Board Chairman certifies that the Charter School listed above is active, open at the time of application, and is operating successfully; the School is expected to be operating the next school year; the number of CO-FTE students reported are verified; the public was given an opportunity for input; the Board discussed the School's long term viability and felt assured of the School's chance to succeed; and, the School is not housed in a facility owned by the School Board and leased, rented, lent or otherwise made available to the charter for its operation.

The undersigned District Board Chairman states that the information contained on this application is true and accurate, and that by submitting the application, certifies to the SMART Schools Clearinghouse that the information on this application is correct. The undersigned District Board Chairman acknowledges that any information contained in this application is subject to audit by the Auditor General of the State of Florida.

District Board Chairman: Dr. Solomon C. Stinson
Name Printed Signature Date

Charter School Chairperson: Mark Wallace
knowledges that the above info. is accurate) Name Printed Signature Date

SMART Schools Executive Director: Spessard Boatright
Name Printed Signature Date

SMART Schools Chairman: William H. (Bill) Lindner
Name Printed Signature Date

SIT Award Planned Expenditure Form

This Form Must Be Attached To Each SIT Award Application

The 1997 regular and special sessions of the Florida Legislature appropriated \$250 million for School Infrastructure Thrift (SIT) Awards, of which \$200 million is from General Revenue (GR) and \$50 million from Lottery Bond Proceeds. Section 235.2155 (7), F.S. states the SIT Awards "may be used for any lawful capital outlay expenditure." Since 20% of all SIT dollars available are bonded dollars, all SIT Award applications received by the Clearinghouse after August 31, 1998, must provide the following information:

Name of New Construction Project or
Charter School Earning the Award: LIBERTY CITY CHARTER SCHOOL

District Point-of-Contact: Dulce M. Palacio Director II - Capital Budget 432-2435
Name Printed Job Title Phone #

List all lawful capital outlay projects for which the award, if received, is to be spent.

Bondable Capital Outlay Expenditure Projects

Generally these are new permanent construction projects such as new schools, new additions, etc., which have a life expectancy far greater than the debt service period of the bonds:

Name of Project	Description of Project	Estimated Cost of Project	Desired Start Date of Project
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Other Lawful Capital Outlay Expenditure Projects

Generally, these are maintenance, repair, renovation, remodeling, purchase of relocatables, and purchase of capital outlay equipment. This does not include maintenance vehicles and other vehicles, salaries, operational supplies, and expenses, etc.

Name of Project	Description of Project	Estimated Cost of Project
LAND Purchases	- outright purchase or lease-purchase payments for sites by M-DCPS	469,800
LIBERTY CITY CHARTER SCHOOL	- purchase of building/property at 8700 N.W. 5th Avenue by Liberty City Charter School	313,200

Should there not be sufficient bondable projects, on a state-wide basis, which were selected using the discretionary selection process, there may come a time when only bondable funds remain, and all future SIT Awards will be limited to bondable projects.

The undersigned District School Board Chairman and Charter School Chairperson, if applicable, certify that projects contained on this application are those for which the SIT Award proceeds will be expended and these projects were approved by the School Board after public discussion of the long term viability and assurances by the School Board of the Charter Schools chance to succeed. The undersigned District Chairman acknowledges that information contained in this application is subject to audit by the Auditor General of the State of Florida.

District School Board Chairman: Dr. Solomon C. Stinson
Name Printed Signature Date

Charter School Chairperson: Mr. Mark Wallace
Name Printed Signature Date

(Signature required only if Charter School and Award is shared)

The Liberty City Charter School Project, Inc.

8700 N.W. 5th Avenue
Miami, Florida 33150
Phone: (305) 751-2700
Fax: (305) 759-9111

SIT AWARD APPLICATION FORM - ATTACHMENT

1. Briefly describe the academic program being offered and the current charter school facilities, including the site size, the type, age and condition of the facilities housing the charter school program (indicate whether the facility is leased, leased purchased or owned by the charter school, and include a front-view photograph of the school.

The mission and purpose of *The Liberty City Charter School Project, Inc.* is to demonstrate that our students can learn at high levels, through an academically rigorous and innovative curriculum that incorporates the development of good character. Essential to the achievement of this mission is the establishment of a community of learning -- a community built upon the foundation of academic integrity and personal responsibility. Key components to *The Liberty City Charter School* include:

- High academic and behavioral expectations
- A school environment that fosters academic achievement, and a dedicated and professionally competent staff
- Creative involvement of parents/guardians in all phases of the school's operation so that they assume a contractual obligation for their children's education.

Facilities Description:

The facilities currently occupied by *The Liberty City Charter School* under a 15-year lease agreement, was previously operated as a parochial school owned by The Hope Evangelical Ministry. The approximate age of the facility is 30 years.

Upon initial occupancy of the facilities, extensive renovations were required to meet building codes and needs of school. Subsequently, a plan for facility renovation was developed and consisted of four phases:

Phase One - Year One: Initial Start-up
Phase Two - Year Two: Renovation and occupancy of two-story building,
Phase Three- Year Three: Renovation and occupancy of house,
**Fourth Phase- Year Four:* Addition of two classrooms.

The facilities of *The Liberty City Charter School* are currently represented by three buildings:

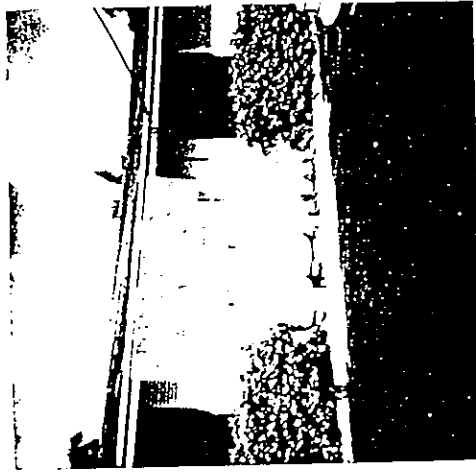
- One-story building that houses three classrooms, administrative offices, a multipurpose room, five bathrooms and a kitchen area (approx. 5,520 sq. ft.)
 - A two-story building that houses four classrooms, two bathrooms, a conference room and one office (approx 2,880 sq. ft.)
 - A single story house that houses three classrooms and two bathrooms (approx 1,200 sq. ft.)
 - Playground area is approximately 6, 000 sq. ft.
 - Parking space/student drop-off and pick-up is approximately 1400 sq. ft.
2. Briefly describe plan (2-5 years) for the charter school in terms of facility growth, relocation, renovation, purchase of buildings or land, new construction, etc., whereby the charter school intends to provide quality, stable facilities for public students and long term cost avoidance for the state.

Contingent upon contract renewal with the sponsor, *The Liberty City Charter School* will begin to explore options to purchase current facilities now occupied by the charter school. Should existing property be acquired by the charter school it will become an asset of the non-profit organization and, therefore, all required costs associated with maintenance, insurance, etc., become the sole responsibility of the organization.

*contingent upon contract renewal



BLDG # 1
LCCS



BLDG # 1
LCCS



BLDG # 1
LCCS



BLDG # 2
LCCS

Office of Superintendent of Schools
Board Meeting of August 26, 1998

August 14, 1998

Financial Affairs
Richard H. Hinds, Chief Financial Officer

SUBJECT: SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE THRIFT (SIT) AWARD REVENUE SHARING WITH CHARTER SCHOOLS

During the special legislative session in November of 1997, the legislature appropriated \$200 million in incentive funding for the SIT Program as part of a series of measures intended to relieve school overcrowding.

Districts may apply after the first year of a charter school's operation in a non-school district facility and are eligible to receive "half of what is saved through avoiding new district school construction." The savings are calculated by the following formula:

$$\text{Savings} = \frac{1}{2} \times \text{number of students} \times \text{cost per student station}$$

The number of students in the charter school is reported from the average October and February counts (FTEuw) and the cost per student station is a statewide average of construction costs compiled by the state as follows:

<u>School</u>	<u>Cost per student station</u>	<u>SIT Student Allocation</u>
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Senior	\$17,600	\$8,800

Limited to a one time funding per student seat, subsequent SIT awards for the same charter school may be granted only with increases in the number of charter students being served.

Although Districts are not obligated by law to share this revenue with the charter school, it is recommended that, subject to contract negotiations with the charter school, the District may share up to a maximum of 40% of Charter SIT awards with the charter school. SIT grant funds will not be released to the charter school until a capital projects plan is completed by the charter school and approved by the District, and all the provisions of the charter school contract are met.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida adopt a revenue sharing policy with charter schools, subject to contract negotiations, that allow a maximum of 40% of the Charter SIT award to be distributed to the charter school upon District approval of a capital projects plan submitted by the charter school and upon compliance by the charter school with all the provisions of the charter school contract.