

Education
Joseph H. Mathos, Deputy Superintendent

SUBJECT: REQUEST TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT WITH FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY FOR 250 ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHERS TO PARTICIPATE IN A MASTERS AND EDUCATIONAL SPECIALIST PROGRAM

**STRATEGIC PLANNING GOALS: II - STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT/PREPARATION FOR POST SECONDARY EXPERIENCES
VI - EFFECTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT
VIII - PROFESSIONAL STAFF AND PRACTICES**

Florida State University (FSU) is implementing a comprehensive mathematics and science advanced degree program for elementary and middle school teachers in Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS). This program originated in June of 1996 with a cohort of 250 teachers. A second cohort is planned for an additional 250 teachers to begin in the summer 1999. The curriculum is aligned with the goals of the National Science Foundation (NSF)/Urban Systemic Initiative (USI). The focus of the program is rigorous content and effective pedagogy to assure that participating elementary and middle school teachers gain knowledge and practice in implementing the national standards for mathematics and science in the classroom.

This collaboration between M-DCPS and FSU will offer a distance learning program that incorporates technology as a tool for delivery of the curriculum. The program provides participants the opportunity to complete a masters or an educational specialist degree in Science Education, Mathematics Education, or Mathematics and Science Education from Florida State University while teaching full time; the only cost to participants is for textbooks, other incidental fees and supplies. The course of study requires the completion of 33 credits at \$177.00 per credit hour for 250 teachers totaling \$1,460,250.00 over the period of summer 1999 through summer 2001. This includes tuition reimbursement at \$130.00 per credit hour at a cost of \$1,072,500.00 and the balance of \$47.00 per credit hour being paid through the NSF/USI grant award at a cost of \$387,750.00. Total tuition costs may escalate as a result of action of the Florida legislature, in which case costs which exceed the M-DCPS-UTD negotiated tuition reimbursement will be included in subsequent NSF/USI funding and will not result in an increase in local commitment. The program will conclude in the summer of 2001 for the participants. A formative and summative evaluation will be conducted to determine the effectiveness of the program.

The Professional Services Contract Committee established by School Board Rule 6Gx13- 3F-1.021 has reviewed this contractual agreement on February 18, 1999, and recommended that the exception to the rule be granted as otherwise determined by the committee.

Funds in Contracted Programs from the NSF/USI award will cover all the costs of the 1998-1999 portion of the contract budget totaling \$309,750.00. The balance of \$78,000.00 will be budgeted in the NSF Urban Systemic Program Cooperative Agreement for 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 at a cost of \$39,000.00 each year. Continuation of this program is contingent upon the National Science Foundation awarding Phase II funding to the Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

The appropriation for this item is included in the Contracted Programs Fund of the 1998-1999 budget under Fund 0420, Function 6400, Program 3965, Object 5390, Location 9628. The appropriation for the Program for 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 will be included in the district's Tuition Reimbursement Account for the total amount of \$1,072,500.00, subject to continued support from the National Science Foundation/Urban Systemic Initiative.

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

1. authorize the Superintendent to allow funds in Contracted Programs from the NSF/USI award to cover all the costs of the 1998-1999 portion of the contract budget, totaling \$309,750.00;
2. authorize the Superintendent to enter into a contractual agreement with Florida State University to provide advanced degree programs in mathematics and science education for 250 elementary and middle school teachers at a cost of \$177.00 per credit hour for a total amount of \$1,460,250.00 over the period summer 1999 through summer 2001; and
3. grant an exception to Board Rule 6Gx13- 3F-1.021.

The appropriation for the summer 1999 portion of the program is included in the Contracted Programs Fund of the 1998-1999 budget. The Tuition Reimbursement Account for 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 will include appropriations for this program, subject to continued support from the National Science Foundation/Urban Systemic Initiative.

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