

Education  
Joseph H. Mathos, Deputy Superintendent

**SUBJECT: REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT TO ENTER INTO A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH CISCO SYSTEMS AND MIAMI-DADE COMMUNITY COLLEGE (M-DCC) TO CREATE CISCO NETWORKING ACADEMIES IN TEN SENIOR HIGH SCHOOLS AND ACCEPT A DONATION OF NETWORKING EQUIPMENT FROM CISCO SYSTEMS**

**STRATEGIC PLANNING GOALS:**

- II - STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT/PREPARATION FOR POST SECONDARY EXPERIENCES**
- VI - EFFECTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT**
- VIII - PROFESSIONAL STAFF AND PRACTICES**
- IX - COMMUNITY/HOME/PARENT/SCHOOL/ BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS**

Cisco Systems is the world's leader in networking for the Internet. It supplies network switches and routers that enable local area networks to access the Internet. In 1997, Cisco launched an innovative initiative creating Cisco Regional Academies at universities and/or community colleges. Each Regional Academy then supports ten academies in local high schools.

In a laboratory setting that closely corresponds to the real world, high school and college students get their hands on the building blocks of today's global information networks, learning by doing as they design and bring to life local and wide-area networks.

Ten senior high schools will be selected by the Deputy Superintendents for Education and School Operations to become local academies. Teachers at the schools will be trained by staff at Cisco and M-DCC to deliver a two-year scope and sequence that will lead to basic networking design certification. Upon completion, students who receive the networking design certification may opt to enter the job market or continue on to M-DCC to earn an Associate Computer Science Degree and certification as Cisco Engineers.

Cisco will donate the cost of networking equipment for the ten selected schools. The Division of Instructional Technology and Media Support Services will purchase 21 networked computers and a server for each of the selected schools and will cover the cost of staff training. Participating high schools will purchase the necessary vocational teacher positions from their regular 1999-2000 allocation with FTE generated from program enrollment.

The CEO of Cisco Systems is Mr. John Chambers.

The appropriation for this item will come from Public School Technology Funds and will be included in the Tentative Budget to be recommended for adoption in July 1999.

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

1. authorize the Superintendent to enter into a cooperative agreement with Cisco Systems and Miami-Dade Community College to create Cisco Networking Academies in ten senior high schools; and
2. accept a donation of networking equipment from Cisco Systems.

The appropriation for this item will come from Public School Technology Funds and will be included in the Tentative Budget to be recommended for adoption in July 1999.

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