

Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman, Member

**SUBJECT: AUTHORIZATION TO CONDUCT A FEASIBILITY STUDY REGARDING  
ARTICULATION IN THE INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE  
PROGRAM**

Founded in the 1960's, the International Baccalaureate Organisation (sic) (IBO) established the International Baccalaureate (IB) diploma/certificate program at the high school level. Since its inception, the IB program has become an internationally recognized, rigorous, college preparatory program that utilizes a holistic approach to learning; linking six major academic disciplines, community service, and cultural pursuits. In 1986, The School Board of [Miami-] Dade County, Florida, established an IB magnet program at Coral Gables Senior High School. To better serve the entire district, IB magnet programs were subsequently established at North Miami Senior High School in 1990 and at Coral Reef Senior High School in 1996. All three M-DCPS, senior high school IB magnet programs are fully authorized through the IBO.

Due to the rigorous nature of the IB curriculum, the district established a Pre-International Baccalaureate (PIB) strand as part of the international education magnet programs at G. W. Carver and North Dade Middle Schools. The PIB magnets provide a complete and coherent curriculum framework and serve as excellent preparation for the senior high school IB diploma/certificate magnets and/or other advanced academic curricular programs. As part of the 1998-2001 federal Magnet Schools Assistance Program (MSAP) grant, PIB magnets have also been established at F. C. Martin Elementary, H. A. Ammons Middle, and Ponce de Leon Middle Schools. Although these PIB magnets provide an excellent prerequisite foundation for subsequent participation in either a PIB or IB magnet, at present, student admission to these programs is not predicated on prior enrollment in a PIB program, but through the magnet application and random selection process. Therefore, no guaranteed articulation exists between the elementary and middle school PIB magnets and between the middle school PIB magnets and the senior high school IB diploma/certificate magnets.

At this time authorization is requested to conduct a feasibility study to establish a guaranteed articulation track between the elementary and middle school PIB magnets as well as between the middle school PIB magnets and the senior high school IB diploma/certificate magnets. The guaranteed articulation track would be correlated according to target school designations and would require a minimum level of achievement/performance to help ensure student success throughout participation in the PIB/IB magnets.

As a guaranteed articulation track is not currently in place and as the feasibility study will not be completed before the end of the school year; approximately fifty students who will complete the PIB magnets at either G. W. Carver or North Dade Middle Schools at the conclusion of the 1998-1999 school year, have been denied admission to the senior high school IB magnets for the 1999-2000 school year as a result of the random selection process as well as program capacity limitations. Therefore, authorization is requested to directly admit these students to the appropriate IB senior high school magnet for the 1999-2000 school year.

The requisite cost of the projected enrollment increase at the senior high school IB magnets will require additional magnet funding of \$4,858 in the 1999-2000 school year and subsequent school years. The appropriation for this item will be included in the General Fund of the Tentative Budget to be recommended for adoption in July 1999.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY**

**MS. PERLA TABARES HANTMAN:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, direct the Superintendent to:

1. conduct a feasibility study to establish a guaranteed articulation track between the elementary and middle school PIB magnets as well as between the middle school PIB magnets and the senior high school IB diploma/certificate magnets;
2. directly admit the students who will successfully complete the PIB magnets at either G. W. Carver or North Dade Middle Schools at the conclusion of the 1998-1999 school year, but who have been denied admission to the appropriate senior high school IB magnets for the 1999-2000 school year as a result of the random selection process as well as program capacity limitations; and
3. increase the senior high school IB magnet allocation for the 1999-2000 school year and subsequent school years in the amount of \$4,858.

The appropriation for this item will be included in the 1999-2000 General Fund of the Tentative Budget to be recommended for adoption in July 1999.