

June 9, 1999

Education  
Joseph H. Mathos, Deputy Superintendent

**SUBJECT: AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT WITH FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY TO COVER THE COST FOR TEACHERS PARTICIPATING IN THE READS MASTER'S PROGRAM, AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$182,200, FROM AUGUST 23, 1999 THROUGH APRIL 14, 2000**

**STRATEGIC PLANNING GOALS: III - READING/LANGUAGE ARTS  
VIII - PROFESSIONAL STAFF AND PRACTICES**

The Comprehensive Reading Plan includes funding for a total of 30 elementary teachers to participate in a master's degree in reading education at Florida International University (FIU). The **READS (Reading to Energize and Accelerate Developmental Strategies)** master's degree program was specially designed in collaboration with FIU and United Teachers of Dade for elementary Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) teachers.

In May 1999, the first cohort of Project **READS** participants graduated from FIU. Cohort II was initiated during the 1998-99 school year. Inasmuch as the Project **READS** master's degree program is an integral part of the staff development activities of the Comprehensive Reading Plan, the evaluation of the effectiveness of the Plan includes the Project **READS** master's degree program.

The Comprehensive Reading Plan, as approved by the School Board at its meeting of January 14, 1998, identifies Florida International University as the collaborative agency to provide this program. Therefore, the contract being recommended here does not require submission to the Professional Services Contract Committee for a waiver from School Board Rule 6Gx13- 3F-1.021.

Information on the availability of this program, including application requirements, will be transmitted to all elementary schools for the selection of Cohort III teachers. Special consideration will be given to teachers teaching at schools with low reading achievement.

This contractual agreement will cover costs as follows:

Cohorts II and III-	100 teachers x 4 courses x \$453 =	\$181,200
	100 teachers x \$10 annual activities fee =	\$1,000

The total cost of this contract will not exceed \$182,200. This contract will consist of multiple partial payments to cover the tuition cost of the different FIU registration cycles through April 14, 2000.

The appropriation for this item will be included in the 1999-2000 Tentative Budget to be recommended for adoption in July 1999 under Fund 0100, Object 5290, Location 9608, Program 9000, Function 5101.

**RECOMMENDED:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to enter into a contractual agreement with Florida International University, from August 23, 1999 through April 14, 2000, in an amount not to exceed \$182,200.

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