

June 9, 1999

Education
Joseph H. Mathos, Deputy Superintendent

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH WALDEN COMMUNITY SCHOOL, INC., AND THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVICES, DISTRICT 11, TO PROVIDE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES TO WALDEN COMMUNITY SCHOOL RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT PROGRAM, AND TO HAVE ACCESS TO FOUR RESIDENTIAL PLACEMENTS AT WALDEN COMMUNITY SCHOOL, INC., FOR STUDENTS REFERRED BY MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS, FROM JULY 1, 1999 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2000

STRATEGIC PLANNING GOAL: II - STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT/PREPARATION FOR POST SECONDARY EXPERIENCES

Authorization is requested to enter into a cooperative agreement with Walden Community School, Inc., and the Florida Department of Children and Families Services (DCF), District 11. Walden Community School, Inc., is a residential treatment program designed to serve adolescents with emotional problems in a community-based residential facility. The program is located in Miami Springs, Florida, and is designed to serve adolescents, ages 13 through 18, who have been referred by the DCF Case Review Committee.

In exchange for the right to place up to four students in the residential treatment facility Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) will provide educational services to students placed at the facility by DCF. In addition, M-DCPS will provide all necessary instructional materials for the students. Walden Community School, Inc., will provide classroom space, furniture and fixtures, as well as staff to provide instructional assistance in the classroom and clinical support services.

The students who are placed by M-DCPS will be determined by a district staffing committee to be in need of a residential program in order to meet their educational needs. Referrals from M-DCPS are subject to review and approval by the Executive Director of Walden Community School, Inc., and the DCF Case Review Committee.

Authorization is requested for the Superintendent to exercise his discretion to renew the cooperative agreement annually on a continuing basis.

The Director of Walden Community School, Inc., is Dr. Harry Henshaw. The Interim District Administrator of Florida Department of Children and Families Services, District 11, is Sara Herald.

There is no exchange of funds for this agreement.

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

1. enter into a cooperative agreement with Walden Community School, Inc., and the Florida Department of Children and Families Services, District 11, to provide educational services to Walden Community School, Inc., residential treatment program, from July 1, 1999 through June 30, 2000;
2. have access to four residential placements at Walden Community School, Inc., for students referred by Miami-Dade County Public Schools, from July 1, 1999 through June 30, 2000; and
3. renew the cooperative agreement annually on a continuing basis.

There is no exchange of funds for this agreement.

RKF/gb