

June 9, 1999

Education
Joseph H. Mathos, Deputy Superintendent

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH THE HEAD START DIVISION OF THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY TO OPERATE PROGRAMS FOR PREKINDERGARTEN CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES, FROM JULY 1, 1999 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2000

STRATEGIC PLANNING GOAL: I - EARLY INTERVENTION

Authorization is requested to enter into a cooperative agreement with the Head Start Division of the Miami-Dade County Community Action Agency to operate programs for prekindergarten children with disabilities. A total of 38 Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) prekindergarten children with disabilities and 38 non-disabled Head Start children ages three to five years old have been served in these programs in four classrooms since 1993. During 1999-2000, 28 children with disabilities and 28 non-disabled children in three classrooms are proposed to be served.

Under the terms of the agreement, M-DCPS provides three classrooms, one exceptional education teacher for each classroom, transportation for the children with disabilities, materials and equipment (purchased from the Preschool Grant for Children with Disabilities funds, P.L. 105-17), and physical, occupational, and speech/language therapies. Staff from the Division of Exceptional Student Education supervise these programs.

Head Start provides a teacher and a paraprofessional for each classroom, food, medical, dental, and psychological services, parent and teacher training, field trips, and before and after school care.

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

The Director of the Head Start Division of the Miami-Dade County Community Action Agency is Jane Robinson.

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 the Head Start Division of the Miami-Dade County Community Action Agency to operate programs for prekindergarten children with disabilities, from July 1, 1999 through June 30, 2000; and
- 2) renew the cooperative agreement annually on a continuing basis.

There is no exchange of funds for this agreement.

RBT:jdk