

Education
Joseph H. Mathos, Deputy Superintendent

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH THE DIVISION OF BLIND SERVICES, FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, TO PROVIDE A COOPERATIVE SCHOOL PROGRAM FOR BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED STUDENTS, 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 the Division of Blind Services, Florida Department of Education, to provide a cooperative school program for blind and visually impaired students. The Division of Blind Services, Florida Department of Education, in cooperation with the Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) has provided a cooperative school program for blind and visually impaired students in the public schools since 1967.

The Division of Blind Services provides a range of services such as: medical, psychological, and psychiatric evaluations; vocational placement; and post secondary services to approximately 315 blind and visually impaired students in M-DCPS to complement the educational programs that are provided to students. Qualified instructors are provided by the Division of Blind Services to train students in the skills of personal management. These skills may be taught any time during the school year, either in the student's home or in a school, as mutually agreed upon by personnel from the school system and the Division of Blind Services.

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

There is no exchange of funds for this agreement.

The Director of the Division of Blind Services is Gail Sterner.

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

- 1) enter into a cooperative agreement with the Division of Blind Services, Florida Department of Education, to provide a cooperative school program for blind and visually impaired students, from July 1, 1999 through June 30, 2000, and;
- 2) renew the cooperative agreement annually on a continuing basis.

The is no exchange of funds for this agreement.

RKF/pbl