

Education
Joseph H. Mathos, Deputy Superintendent

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION TO ISSUE A REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COURSEWARE IN CORE SUBJECT AREAS

**STRATEGIC PLANNING GOALS: II - STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT/PREPARATION FOR POST SECONDARY EXPERIENCES
III - READING/LANGUAGE ARTS
VI - EFFECTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT
VIII - PROFESSIONAL STAFF AND PRACTICES**

The demand on teachers to stay abreast of current instructional strategies and to master effective teaching techniques is an expeditious task. Delivering staff development to teachers through traditional face-to-face methods can inadvertently place an additional strain on schools. To leverage its investment in technology, Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) is seeking alternative staff development models.

Distance learning technologies not only provide the district with a cost-effective solution to in-service training, but also allow teachers to spend less time out of the classroom, minimizing instructional disruption. Further, distance learning technologies provide teachers with on-demand, customized, course modules tailored both to their individual classroom needs as well as their personal learning styles.

The purpose of this Request for Proposals (RFP) is to award a proposer a contract with Miami-Dade County Public Schools to provide and/or develop *Professional Development Courseware* in the core subject areas. The primary focus will be on delivering additional assistance to the schools classified by the state as *failing schools* without taking teachers from the students who need them the most. The proposer(s) awarded a contract will be responsible for *Professional Development Courseware* that will be used to provide training modules that can be accessed through the Internet/Intranet or via satellite/cable transmission.

A selection committee will be reviewing the proposals submitted in order to make recommendations to the Superintendent for subsequent submission to the School Board. The selection committee will consist of the following:

- An administrator from Instructional Technology and Media Support Services;
- An administrator from Language Arts/Reading;
- An administrator from USI Mathematics and Science;
- An administrator from Curriculum Support Services;
- An administrator from Educational Planning;

- An administrator from Human Resource and Development;
- An administrator from School Operations;
- An administrator from Procurement and Materials Management;
- A Region Director;
- A principal and a teacher from two schools that have demonstrated a high level of commitment to technology integration;
- An administrator from the Office of Information Technology; and
- A representative from the United Teachers of Dade.

The estimated timeline for implementation is as follows:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| • Mailing of RFP | August 26, 1999 |
| • Opening of Proposals | October 18, 1999 |
| • Evaluation Completed | October 27 or 28, 1999 |
| • Recommendation to School Board | November 17, 1999 |

A copy of the Request for Proposals will be submitted to School Board members under separate cover prior to the School Board Meeting of August 25, 1999. Copies will be available for inspection by the public in the Office of Board Recording Secretary and the Citizen Information Center.

Funds for the project are included in the General Fund of the 1999-2000 Tentative Budget, under Program 8600, Location 9629, Object 5390, Function 5100, and Fund 0100, and FCAT Enhancement Program. If the cost of the proposal(s) selected by the evaluation committee exceeds what the district considers appropriate for the project's outcome(s), the district is under no obligation to purchase.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida:

1. authorize the Superintendent to issue a Request for Proposals to provide Professional Development Courseware in core subject areas; and
2. approve the selection committee that will review the proposals and make recommendations to the Superintendent for subsequent submission to the School Board for approval.

The appropriation for this item is included in the General Fund of the 1999-2000 Tentative Budget.