

August 16, 1999

Education
Joseph H. Mathos, Deputy Superintendent

**SUBJECT: FORMAL APPROVAL OF EXPLICIT ASSURANCES RELATING TO
SUBMISSION OF EXTENDED YEAR REQUIREMENTS FOR LEVELS I
AND II SCHOOLS**

On July 14, 1999, the Board authorized the Superintendent to submit to the Florida Department of Education the names of most schools currently classified as Level I and II for funding to plan for implementation of the Extended Year program.

Subsequent to publication of that agenda, the Superintendent's office received additional information about required explicit assurances participating schools and districts must provide to the Commissioner of Education. These assurances were due in Tallahassee by August 1, 1999.

In light of the Board's endorsement of these applications on July 14, 1999, the Superintendent submitted the revised school applications with required school assurances in anticipation of favorable Board reaction at the August 25, 1999 meeting. A commitment to submit to the Department by January 1, 2000, implementation plans which will include:

- Assurance that teacher training, individual and collaborative teacher planning time, and innovative use of technology are key elements of each school's implementation of the extended school year; and
- Assurance that additional time-on-task for students will be used to provide for mastery of course content and a greater emphasis on in-depth activities.

The district school board must also provide a letter of endorsement that acknowledges each school's commitment and expresses support for the school's extended school year implementation plan. The district must also provide assurance that extended school year funds will be used to provide extended contracts for teachers in participating schools. The district must include schools implementing an extended school year in the district's controlled open enrollment plan.

These assurances were also included in the transmitting letter in anticipation of favorable Board action on August 25, 1999.

In addition, both the schools and district school board must provide assurance that appropriate student performance data will be used to measure the extent to which an extended school year is associated with increased student performance. This measurement must include a comparison of the performance of comparable student populations in 180-day schools and 210-day schools.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, endorse each Levels I and II school's commitment, support each school's Extended Year plan, and affirm required assurances pursuant to Specific Appropriation 117C of the General Appropriations Act.