

August 16, 1999

Education
Joseph H. Mathos, Deputy Superintendent

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION TO RENEW AND EXPAND A
 COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY
 PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND SHAKE-A-LEG MIAMI, INC., FROM
 AUGUST 31, 1999 THROUGH JUNE 14, 2000**

**STRATEGIC PLANNING GOALS: II - STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT/PREPARATION
 FOR POST SECONDARY EXPERIENCES
 X - COMMUNITY/HOME/PARENT/SCHOOL/
 BUSINESS/PARTNERSHIPS**

Shake-A-Leg Miami, Inc. has expressed an interest to expand existing cooperative programs in sailing for disabled students.

This program provides student athletes, who participate in the Sports Program for Students with Disabilities, an opportunity to expand their participation in the Shake-A-Leg Miami, Inc. sailing program. Shake-A-Leg Miami, Inc. is a non-profit organization dedicated to giving students with disabilities a positive educational experience through sailing. This organization provided ten sailing field trips during the 1998-1999 school year and would like to sponsor ten additional field trips which will include a maximum of thirty-two students and eight staff members from each region for a total of 20 field trips and 800 participants.

Each field trip will consist of hands-on instruction followed by a sailing experience. Shake-A-Leg Miami, Inc. will utilize all eight of their specially-designed non-sinkable, non-capsizing twenty foot sailboats, each equipped with two specially-designed adaptive seats for wheelchair users. All sailboats will have a certified Shake-A-Leg skipper, a Miami-Dade County Disabled Sports Program coach and four students, two of whom may be wheelchair users. All participants will be required to wear a personal floatation device provided by Shake-A-Leg. During the time that the students are receiving their on-water sailing experiences, Shake-A-Leg will have a powerboat serving as a safety boat with personnel trained in water safety.

The Office of Risk and Benefits Management reviewed this program last year and they performed a safety review of Shake-A-Leg's procedures. They were consulted again this year and they concur with this Board Item.

Shake-A-Leg Miami, Inc. will absorb the \$58,800 for the on-water activities. The Division of Life Skills will be reimbursed for an amount, not to exceed \$9,000, for the cost of substitutes and buses necessary to implement this program. This program will continue to provide students with disabilities an opportunity to learn a lifetime skill that they may otherwise never experience.

The Executive Director of the Shake-A-Leg Miami, Inc. is Mr. Harry Horgan.

There is no cost to the district.

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

1. renew and expand the existing cooperative agreement with Shake-A-Leg Miami, Inc., to provide sailing activities for the enhancement of the Sports Program for Students with Disabilities, for a total of up to 800 participants, from August 31, 1999 through June 14, 2000; and
2. renew this contractual agreement for up to two additional one-year periods.

There is no cost to the district.

JHM:aj