

Education  
Joseph H. Mathos, Deputy Superintendent

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION TO ISSUE A REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS TO PROVIDE AN INTERNET/INTRANET-BASED TESTING SYSTEM FOR STUDENTS TO BE USED TO DETERMINE STUDENT PROGRESS IN MASTERING GRADE LEVEL OBJECTIVES AS MEASURED BY THE FLORIDA COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT TEST (FCAT)**

**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 Sunshine State Standards and the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) form the core of Florida's education accountability efforts. FCAT is a performance-based test measuring a student's knowledge on selected benchmarks in reading and mathematics that are defined by the Sunshine State Standards. The Standards articulate *challenging content* that Florida students are expected to know.

It is important that educators have the information they need to make instructional decisions about what they teach based on what their students know. Moreover, having more information gives teachers more time to focus on areas of deficiency before students take the State-mandated tests. An *Internet/Intranet-Based Testing System* will provide teachers with "just-in-time data" that will assist in measuring student progress in meeting grade level expectations as measured by the FCAT. Using technology as an instructional management tool leverages district and school expenditures for infrastructure.

The purpose of this Request for Proposals (RFP) is to award a proposer a contract with Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) for an *Internet/Intranet-Based Testing System*. The proposer(s) awarded a contract will be responsible for an *Internet/Intranet-Based Testing System* that will be used to determine student progress at mastering grade level objectives, as measured by the FCAT.

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 Management and Accountability;
- 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 time line for implementation is as follows:**

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|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| • Mailing of RFP                 | August 26, 1999      |
| • Opening of Proposals           | September 27, 1999   |
| • Evaluation Completed           | October 5 or 6, 1999 |
| • Recommendation to School Board | October 20, 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 an *Internet/Intranet-Based Testing System* for students to be used to determine student progress in mastering grade level objectives as measured by the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test; 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.