

Education
Joseph H. Mathos, Deputy Superintendent

SUBJECT: REQUEST TO CONFIRM THE RENEWAL OF A CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT WITH WILLOW CSN INC., TO PROVIDE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS WITH FUNDS, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$51,733, FOR AN EDUCATIONAL SPECIALIST TO MONITOR TRAINING EFFORTS FOR THE WILLOW NETWORK, FROM JULY 1, 1999 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2000

**STRATEGIC PLANNING GOALS: II - STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT/PREPARATION FOR POST SECONDARY
VIII - PROFESSIONAL STAFF AND PRACTICES
IX - COMMUNITY/HOME/PARENT/SCHOOL/
BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS**

Willow CSN Inc., (Willow) desires to renew the contractual agreement with Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) in which Willow will provide M-DCPS funds, in an amount not to exceed \$51,733 to obtain the services of an educational specialist to direct and coordinate training efforts during the period commencing July 1, 1999 through June 30, 2000.

Since 1996, Willow has operated in Florida under the terms of a Quick Response Training Grant Agreement with the State of Florida (through Enterprise Florida) and M-DCPS. The collaborative efforts of the three parties to date have resulted in the creation of approximately 1,350 job opportunities for teleservice representatives. It is estimated that 2,500 students have been trained by M-DCPS. Willow's business plan states that more than 5,000 additional employment opportunities are expected to become available within the next 12 months.

The training efforts associated with this endeavor require a full-time educational specialist. Willow will fund the position, including fringes, through a contractual agreement with M-DCPS for the 1999-2000 school year. Under the provisions of this agreement, the educational specialist will administer training programs for teachers and prospective students, supervise client-training-program interface, coordinate the integration of training programs with technology, and provide oversight of the entire Willow training operation.

The interim CEO of Willow CSN Inc., is Mr. John Higgins.

No local funds are required.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, confirm the renewal of a contractual agreement with Willow CSN Inc., (Willow) to provide Miami-Dade County Public Schools with funds, in an amount not to exceed \$51,733, for an educational specialist to monitor training efforts for the Willow Network, from July 1, 1999 through June 30, 2000.

No local funds are required.

CBM:jlb