

Management and Accountability
Carol Cortes, Deputy Superintendent

SUBJECT: REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$34,595.00 FROM THE "TAKE STOCK IN CHILDREN" FOUNDATION, TO DEFRAY THE COST OF HIRING ONE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS' INTERIM SENIOR SECRETARY (PAY GRADE 21) TO SUPPORT THE STATEWIDE MENTORING INITIATIVE

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

Authorization is sought to accept funds in the amount of \$34,595.00 from the "Take Stock in Children" Foundation (TSIC), a nonprofit organization which provides college scholarships and mentors for at-risk children in the Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) and across the State of Florida. The funds are targeted specifically to defray the cost of hiring one M-DCPS' interim senior secretary (pay grade 21) and for support of the statewide mentoring initiative to recruit, train, and place mentors with identified youth in Miami-Dade County.

Currently, 201 M-DCPS students have received college scholarships and mentors. Ninety-two students will be added during the 1999-2000 school year for a total of 293 children. Criteria for eligibility include at-risk profiles, together with pledges from the enrollees that they will remain drug-free and have no involvement in criminal activities. If the students do not live up to the standards of TSIC, they forfeit their opportunity to receive college scholarships. Students are selected for participation in TSIC by school-site administrators, counselors, teachers, community college personnel and TSIC staff.

TSIC is offering the above-mentioned funds to defray the cost of the clerical support person who will serve the "Take Stock" Mentor Coordinator in the Bureau of Community Services. The monies are designated to cover the basic salary and fringe benefits of the position.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to accept funds in the amount of \$34,595.00 from the "Take Stock in Children" Foundation to defray the cost of hiring one Miami-Dade County Public Schools' interim senior secretary (pay grade 21) to support the statewide mentoring initiative.