

Office of Superintendent of Schools
Board Meeting of January 12, 2000

December 10, 1999

Education
Joseph H. Mathos, Deputy Superintendent

**SUBJECT: PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF BOARD RULE: INITIAL READING
6Gx13- 6A-1.47, CHARTER SCHOOLS**

**STRATEGIC PLANNING GOAL: II – STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT/PREPARATION
FOR POST SECONDARY EXPERIENCES**

This item is submitted for consideration by the Board to amend School Board Rule 6Gx13- 6A-1.47, Charter Schools, to comply with Florida's Legislation, Sections 228.056, 228.0561, and 228.057(9), Florida Statutes, as amended through the 1999 Legislative Session. As a result of the amended legislation, changes were necessary to the following areas: eligible charter school proposers; requirements of charter school employees; timeline for receiving charter school applications; and changes in the criteria for the approval of a charter school. Other changes in the Board Rule pertain to district procedures (e.g., contract renewal process, evaluation procedures).

Attached are the Notice of Intended Action and the rule proposed for amendment. Changes from the current rule are indicated by underscoring words to be added and ~~striking through~~ words to be deleted.

Authorization of the Board is requested for the Superintendent to initiate rulemaking proceedings in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act for the amendment of School Board Rule 6Gx13- 6A-1.47, Charter Schools.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to initiate rulemaking proceedings in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act to amend Board Rule 6Gx13- 6A-1.47, Charter Schools.

JHM:cgr

K-21

NOTICE OF INTENDED ACTION

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, announced on January 12, 2000, its intention to amend Board Rule 6Gx13- 6A-1.47, Charter Schools, at its meeting of March 15, 2000.

PURPOSE AND EFFECT: The purpose of the amendment is to align School Board Rule 6Gx13- 6A-1.47, Charter Schools, with Florida's Legislation, Sections 228.056, 228.0561, and 228.057(9), Florida Statutes, as amended through the 1999 Legislative Session.

SUMMARY: The intent of the rule reflects the additions and deletions indicated in the Florida's Charter School Legislation, as amended through the 1999 Legislative Session. As a result of the amended legislation, changes were necessary to the following areas: eligible charter school proposers; requirements of charter school employees; timeline for receiving charter school applications; and changes in the criteria for the approval of a charter school. Other changes in the Board Rule pertain to district procedures (e.g., contract renewal process, evaluation procedures).

SPECIFIC LEGAL AUTHORITY UNDER WHICH RULEMAKING IS AUTHORIZED: 230.22(2); 230.23(18) F.S.

LAW IMPLEMENTED, INTERPRETED, OR MADE SPECIFIC: 228.056; 228.0561; 228.057(9) F.S.

IF REQUESTED, A HEARING WILL BE HELD DURING THE BOARD MEETING OF March 15, 2000, which begins at 1:00 p.m., in the School Board Auditorium, 1450 N.E. Second Avenue, Miami, Florida 33132. Persons requesting such a hearing or who wish to provide information regarding the statement of estimated regulatory cost, or to provide a proposal for a lower cost regulatory alternative as provided by Section 120.541(1), F.S., must do so in writing by February 8, 2000, to the Superintendent of Schools, Room 912, at the same address.

ANY PERSON WHO DECIDES TO APPEAL THE DECISION made by The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, with respect to this action will need to ensure the preparation of a verbatim record of the proceedings, including the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. (Section 286.0105, Florida Statutes)

A COPY OF THE PROPOSED AMENDED RULE is available for inspection and copying at cost by the public in the Citizen Information Center, Room 158, 1450 N.E. Second Avenue, Miami, Florida 33132.

Originator: Ms. Mercedes Toural
Supervisor: Mr. Joseph H. Mathos
Date: December 10, 1999

Instruction - Elementary and Secondary**CHARTER SCHOOLS (K – 12)**

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, ~~Public Schools Florida~~, pursuant to Florida Statutes, establishes charter schools for the following purposes: to improve student learning; ~~of~~ to ~~increase~~ learning opportunities for all students, with special emphasis on expanded learning experiences for academically low achieving students; to ~~increase~~ the use of innovative learning methods; to ~~increase~~ choices of learning opportunities for students; to establish a new form of accountability for schools requiring the measurement of learning outcomes and creating innovative measurement tools making the school the unit for improvement; and to ~~create~~ new professional opportunities for teachers. Charter schools are fully recognized as public schools.

I. Responsibility of the School Board Miami-Dade County Public Schools' Administration

- A. Receive, review, and recommend to the School Board all charter school applications ~~in a timely fashion~~ as stipulated by the legislation within the timeline in this rule, Florida Statutes.
- B. Develop a charter in cooperation with the applicant.
- C. Monitor charter school contracts and make recommendations to the School Board.

II. Eligibility for Charter Application

~~Beginning with the 1996-97 school year, t~~The School Board may sponsor one or more charters for schools which may serve any grade or combination of grades from kKindergarten through gGrade ~~twelve~~12.

Eligible proposers are:

- A. ~~A~~ny not for nonprofit organization; ~~or~~
- B. A~~a~~ public school which requests to convert to a charter school with at least fifty percent (50%) ~~or more support~~ of parents of children enrolled in the school voting for the conversion, and at least fifty percent (50%) ~~or more support~~ of teachers employed at the school voting for the conversion. ;

C. a municipality; or

D. a business which requests a charter school-in-the-workplace.

{Private schools, parochial schools, and home education programs are not eligible to become charter schools.}

III. Legal Entity and Requirements

The charter school shall:

- A. ~~O~~rganize as, or be operated by, a ~~non-profit~~ nonprofit organization;
- B. ~~B~~e non-sectarian;
- C. ~~C~~harge no tuition or fees except those fees charged by other public schools;
- D. ~~M~~meet health and safety standards of regular schools;
- E. ~~P~~ublish an annual ~~progress~~ report;
- F. ~~P~~rovide an annual financial audit similar to that of the School ~~D~~istrict to the School Board; and
- G. ~~A~~nalyze and compare student performance.

~~No single organization may operate more than one elementary, one middle, and one senior high school.~~

All charter schools must comply with Florida Statutes applicable to public schools as they relate to civil rights, student health, safety, welfare, public records, public meetings, public inspection, and penalties.

IV. Student Eligibility

- A. Participation and attendance of any student in a charter school is voluntary. If a public school converts to a charter school, parents may request non-participation and receive an assignment to a another public school.
- B. All students attending a public school which converts to a charter school will be eligible to attend.

- C. All students are eligible for participation. Students who are at-risk of academic failure as defined in the statute shall be a priority. Equal opportunity shall be provided for exceptional education students and limited English proficient (LEP) students.

~~V. Charter School Boundaries~~

~~A charter school shall be open to any student residing in the school district.~~

~~VI.~~

V. Student Selection for Charter Schools

- A. A charter school shall be open to any student covered in an interdistrict agreement or residing in the school district. When a public school converts to a charter status, enrollment preference shall be given to students who would have otherwise attended that public school.
- B. The A charter school shall enroll a student who submits a timely application, achieve a racial/ethnic balance reflective of the community it serves or within the racial/ethnic range of other public schools in the same school district.
- C. When a public school converts to a charter status, enrollment preference shall be given to students who would have otherwise attended that public school. If the number of eligible students exceeds the capacity of the program, class, grade level or building, a random selection of students will be made.
- D. A charter school may give enrollment preference to a sibling of a student enrolled in the charter school or to the child of an employee of the charter school.
- E. Charter schools-in-the-workplace shall give preference to children of employees of the sponsoring entity.
- F. If the number of eligible students exceeds the capacity of the program, grade level, or building, a random selection process shall be followed for student admission.

~~VII.~~VI. **Student Assessment**

The charter school must implement a program to assess student achievement. At a minimum, the school must participate in state and local testing programs established to comply with the statewide assessment program and district-required evaluations. The district will coordinate the administration of state and local testing programs, these instruments and will charge the school on an actual cost basis for this service.

~~VIII.~~VII. **Student Records**

A. The charter school must maintain both active and archival records for current / and former students. The district will assist the school in establishing appropriate record formats. All permanent (Category A) records of students leaving the school, whether by graduation, transfer to the public school system, or withdrawal to attend another school, must be transferred to the school system in accordance with state law. Records of student progress (Category B) must be transferred to the school system if the student is returning to Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

B. The charter school must maintain a record of students who apply to the school, whether or not they are eventually enrolled. A twelve-month record (July 1st - June 30th) shall be submitted to the school district no later than July 20th of each year.

~~IX.~~VIII. **FTE Reporting**

Funding for a charter school is based on the number of full-time-equivalent (FTE) students; therefore, it is essential that records of student attendance be maintained in a format consistent with state reporting requirements. The district will assist the charter school in establishing mechanisms for reporting FTE. The charter school will, however, be fully responsible for collecting and maintaining accurate and appropriate records and for reporting attendance in a timely manner to the district. Failure to maintain accurate records and report enrollment and attendance in a timely manner may impact funding for the charter school.

~~X.~~
IX.

Withdrawal and Transfer of Students

- A. Parents may withdraw a student from a charter school at any time. The student ~~either~~ will return to the home school, or to a school with an appropriate program, or, if the home school is the charter school, to a school agreed upon by the parent and the ~~region~~ school district.
- B. Charter schools may not withdraw or transfer a student involuntarily, unless the withdrawal or transfer is accomplished through established administrative procedures under ~~present~~ current School Board policy used by public schools.

XI.
X.

Transportation and Food Services

- A. Transportation and food services are the responsibility of charter schools, ~~and~~ These services must be provided according to district, state, and federal rules and regulations.
- B. A charter school may contract with the school district or with a private provider for transportation and/or food services, ~~for transportation and/or food service, or may contract with a private provider.~~

XII. **Application for Charters**

- ~~A. Applications must be in compliance with the Florida Charter Schools standard application format.~~
- ~~B. Applications for charter schools will be accepted officially following the approval of the School Board at initial reading of this rule. Staff will review all applications, and within sixty (60) calendar days submit to the Board all applications with a recommendation for approval or denial. Denied applicants may appeal to the State Board of Education within thirty (30) days.~~
- ~~C. Applications for charter schools will be received any time during the year. Charter schools must begin operation at the beginning of the district's school year.~~

~~XIII.~~XI. Facility

It is the responsibility of the applicant to have an appropriate facility consistent with all applicable Florida Statutes, or shall provide evidence that one will be available for the beginning of the school year. Appropriate facility documentation, as determined by the Sponsor shall be provided to the district at least ten working days before school opens, consistent with the beginning day for students as ~~listed~~ designated on the approved Miami-Dade County Ppublic Sschools' calendar.

~~XIV.~~XII. Funding

- A. Funding for student enrollment in a charter school shall be the sum of district operating funds from the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP), including gross state and local funds, discretionary lottery funds, and discretionary operating millage funds divided by total district funded weighted full-time-equivalent (FTE) students times the weighted full-time equivalent students of the particular charter school. Charter schools, if eligible, shall also receive their proportionate share of categorical program funds included in the Florida Education Finance Program.
- B. Any eligible student enrolled in a charter school shall be provided federal funds for the same level of service provided other eligible students in the schools operated by the School Board.
- C. Total funding shall be recalculated during the school year to reflect actual weighted FTE students reported by the charter school during the FTE student survey periods.
- D. A charter school shall not levy taxes or issue bonds secured by tax revenue.
- E. Any administrative fee charged by the school district ~~for~~ to a charter school shall be limited to ~~no more than the actual cost of administering the contract~~ or five percent of available ~~charter school funds, whichever is less.~~
- F. When a charter is not renewed or is terminated, any unencumbered funds from the charter school shall revert to the School Board. In that event, all ~~School Board~~ property and improvements, furnishings, and equipment purchased with public funds shall revert automatically to full ownership by the School Board.

- G. If a charter is not renewed or is terminated, the governing body of the charter school is responsible for all debts of the charter school.
- H. The district shall calculate and submit ten (10) monthly payments to the school by the 15th of each month beginning with September 15th following the opening of school. In order to provide educational materials for students when classes begin, the first payment shall include seventy five percent (75%) of the full annual allocation of instructional materials based on membership after the first week of school. The tenth and final payment for each school year shall be submitted to the school no later than July 15th to allow the district to determine any final amounts due the district for services provided the school as well as for administrative oversight. Payment shall be made to the charter school no later than thirty (30) working days after receipt of an invoice. Payment shall be on a monthly basis in arrears based upon the estimated number of FTE students in membership during the FTE survey periods. The final payment during any fiscal year shall be adjusted to reflect the number of actual FTE students in membership during the FTE survey periods.

~~XV. Insurance and Indemnification~~

- ~~A. The governing body and employees of a charter school are governed by Section 768.28, Florida Statutes. In accordance with Section 768.28, the governing body and employees of charter schools shall be liable for tort claims in the same manner and to the same extent as a private individual under like circumstance, but liability shall not include punitive damages or interest for the period before the judgment. The governing body and employees of charter schools shall not be liable to pay a claim or judgment by any one person which exceeds the sum of \$100,000 or any claim or judgment or portions thereof, which, when totaled with all other claims or judgments paid by the charter school arising out of the same incident or occurrence, exceeds the sum of \$200,000.~~
- ~~B. The School Board of Miami Dade County, Florida will not be held liable for any claim, action, loss, damage, injury, liability, cost or expense of whatsoever kind or nature including, but not by way of limitation, attorney's fees and court costs arising out of injury to persons or damage to property arising out of any injury to persons or property damage as a result of the negligence of the charter school or its agents, employees, invitees, or contractors.~~
- ~~C. The charter school must maintain appropriate Commercial General Liability Insurance, Automobile Liability Insurance, Workers' Compensation Insurance and Professional Liability Insurance. The~~

~~School Board of Miami Dade County, Florida must be listed as additional named insured on these policies.~~

XIII. Management Companies

- A. If a management company will be managing the charter school, the contract between the management company and the governing body of the charter school shall be submitted to the district prior to the approval of the charter school contractual agreement.
- B. The contract between the governing body of the charter school and the management company shall require that the management company operate the charter school in accordance with the terms stipulated in the charter school contractual agreement and all applicable laws, ordinances, rules, and regulations.
- C. The requirements of this provision shall be included in the charter school contract.

XIV. Insurance and Indemnification

- A. The governing body and employees of a charter school are governed by Section 768.28, Florida Statutes. In accordance with Section 768.28, the governing body and employees of charter schools shall be liable for tort claims in the same manner and to the same extent as a private individual under like circumstance, but liability shall not include punitive damages or interest for the period before the judgment. The governing body and employees of charter schools shall not be liable to pay a claim or judgment by any one person which exceeds the sum of \$100,000 or any claim or judgment or portions thereof, which, when totaled with all other claims or judgments paid by the charter school arising out of the same incident or occurrence, exceeds the sum of \$200,000.
- B. The School Board will not be held liable for any claim action, loss, damage, injury, liability, cost, or expense of whatsoever kind or nature including, but not by way of limitation, attorney's fees and court costs arising out of injury to persons or property damage as a result of negligence of the charter school or its agents, employees, invitees, or contractors.
- C. The charter school must maintain appropriate Commercial General Liability Insurance, Automobile Liability Insurance, Workers' Compensation Insurance, and Professional Liability Insurance. The School Board must be listed as additional named insured on these policies.

XVI.**XV. Student Rights and Responsibilities, Discipline, and Safe Learning Environment**

Applicants must describe, in writing, the charter schools' rules applicable to student rights and responsibilities, discipline, and a safe learning environment.

XVII.**XVI. Employees of Charter Schools**

A charter school shall select its own employees and implement employees labor and other relations pursuant to the requirements of Section 42 228.056, Florida Statutes. House Bill 403, adopted by the 1996 Florida Legislature.

- A. Charter school employees shall not be active Miami-Dade County Public School employees, except in the case of a conversion charter school, in which case they shall remain public employees for all purposes, unless such employees choose not to do so.
- B. Charter school employees must meet certification requirements as stated in Chapter 231, Florida Statutes, and must meet eligibility requirements for a Florida Educator's Certificate.
- C. General drug screening shall be conducted on all applicants for instructional and non-instructional positions with the charter school in the manner set forth in School Board Rule 6Gx13- 4-1.05, Drug-Free Workplace General Policy Statement, and the Miami-Dade County Public Schools Drug-Free Workplace Technical Guide. A negative drug screen shall be a requirement for employment. The cost of drug screening shall be borne by the charter school or the applicant.
- D. All applicants for instructional and non-instructional positions shall be fingerprinted and processed as required by Section 231.02, Florida Statutes, and School Board Rule 6Gx13- 4C-1.021, Fingerprinting of All Employees Upon Application and Employment. Employees shall be on probationary status pending fingerprint processing through the Florida Department of Law Enforcement and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and determination will be based on the results of the fingerprint check of compliance with standards of good moral character. The processing of each employees fingerprints shall be performed by Miami-Dade County

Public Schools. The cost of fingerprinting shall be borne by the charter school or the applicant.

- E. Members of the governing body shall be fingerprinted by Miami-Dade County Public Schools prior to the approval of the charter school contractual agreement. Board members appointed to the governing body after the approval of the charter school contractual agreement must be fingerprinted within thirty (30) days of their appointment. The cost of fingerprinting shall be borne by the charter school or the governing board member.

XVIII.

XVII. Technical Assistance

It is the responsibility of the applicant to request technical assistance, in writing, from the Florida Department of Education. The School Board will provide application assistance to the extent feasible, and, within present current resources, consistent with assistance provided to other contractors.

- ~~A. It is the responsibility of the applicant to request technical assistance in writing from the Florida Department of Education. The School Board will provide application assistance to the extent feasible and, within present resources, consistent with assistance provided to other contractors.~~
- ~~B. The rule intended to be consistent with House Bill 403, adopted by the 1996 Florida Legislature. All other conditions, issues, and procedures shall be in adherence with the charter school legislation, intent and statute.~~
- ~~C. The charter schools law is incorporated herein by reference and made part of this Board rule.~~
- ~~D. The Florida Charter Schools Standard Application Format is incorporated by reference in this rule.~~

~~XIX. Selection of Charter Schools~~

XVIII. Application and Contract Process for Charter Schools

- A. A public announcement will shall be made at least sixty (60) working days prior to the due date (November 15th) for applications for of charter schools which intend to operate during the next school year.

Applications, including instructions for obtaining technical assistance, will be provided to all ~~requesters~~ applicants.

~~B. All completed applications must be received in the appropriate district office on December 1st, no later than 5:00 p.m. All applications will be stamped with the date and time when they are received. Applications received after the prescribed due date may not be considered for a charter for the next school year. Applications must be in compliance with the Miami-Dade County Public Schools Charter School Application format.~~

~~C. Applications for charter schools will be accepted no later than 4:30 p.m. on November 15th in order to be considered for approval for the following school year. All applications will be stamped with the date and time they are received.~~

~~D. A Technical Assistance Team shall review all applications and make recommendations to the District Review Committee. The Technical Assistance Team shall be comprised of at least one (1) representative from each of the following offices:~~

~~Office of Exceptional Student Education and Psychological Services;~~

~~Division of Bilingual/Foreign Language Skills;~~

~~Division of Instructional Technology and Media Support Services;~~

~~Office of Risk and Benefits Management;~~

~~Division of Mathematics and Science;~~

~~Office of Management and Compliance Audits;~~

~~Department of Transportation;~~

~~Educational Planning;~~

~~Office of the Controller;~~

~~Office of Educational Evaluation;~~

~~Division of Language Arts/Reading;~~

~~Office of Budget Management;~~

~~Department of Food and Nutrition;~~

~~Facilities Planning and Construction;~~

~~Instructional Staffing/Certification;~~

~~Division of Life Skills;~~

~~Division of Social Sciences/Special Programs;~~

~~Bureau of Adult/Vocational, Alternative and Dropout Prevention Programs;~~

~~Federal Programs and Grants Administration;~~

~~Office of Workforce Development Education;~~

~~Legislative and Labor Relations; and~~

~~Network and Internet Services.~~

- E. A District Review Committee shall review all applications, and by majority vote, make a recommendation for acceptance or denial of each application. At least one (1) representative of the charter school organizers must be available to answer questions from the committee when the application is reviewed. All applications will be submitted to the School Board with a recommendation for acceptance or denial, including the vote of the committee.

~~A committee shall review all applications and make a recommendations. to the School Board. The School Board must by a majority vote approve or deny all applications no later than sixty (60) days after the application is received.~~

The A District Review eCommittee shall be comprised of at least the following persons:

Superintendent, or designee;
 Deputy Superintendent, Education Instructional Leadership, who will act as chair;
Chief Facilities Officer, Facilities Planning and Construction;
Deputy Superintendent, Management and Accountability;
Deputy Superintendent, Personnel Management and Services;
Deputy Superintendent, School Operations;
 Chief Financial Officer, Financial Affairs, ~~or designee; to be selected by the Deputy Superintendent, Instructional Leadership;~~
 Three staff members from the ~~Office of~~ Education; Instructional Leadership;
~~Deputy Superintendent, School Operations, or designee;~~
 Three principals, one each from an elementary, a middle, and a senior high school, selected by the Deputy Superintendent, School Operations;
 Two members of the United Teachers of Dade, selected by the Executive Vice President; and
 President, or designee of the County Council of PTA/PTSA.; and
One member of the Schools of Choice Advisory Committee.

~~The committee shall review all applications and by majority vote make a recommendation for acceptance or denial of each application.~~

~~All applications will be submitted to the School Board with an explanation of acceptance or denial, including the committee vote.~~

- F. The School Board will vote on all applications. The School Board must, by a majority vote, approve or deny all applications no later than sixty (60) days after the applications are received.

- G. If an application is approved, the charter school applicant and the district shall establish a charter school contractual agreement.
- H. When the charter school contractual agreement is approved, the charter school applicant shall begin preparations for the opening of the school in accordance with its charter school contractual agreement.
- I. A charter school may postpone its opening for a period of one year. No charter school shall be provided any additional postponements beyond the one year extension.
- J. If the approved application has been previously postponed, and the school is unable to open consistent with the beginning date of the contract, the approved application shall be revoked and the contract shall be terminated.
- K. If an application is denied, the School Board shall, within ten (10) calendar days, provide a written explanation of the cause for denial.
- L. Denied applicants may appeal to the State Board of Education within thirty (30) days.
- M. The School Board shall act within thirty (30) days upon receipt of the recommendation from the State Board of Education.

XIX. Contract Renewal

- A. No later than December 1st of the last year of a charter school contractual agreement, the governing body of the charter school shall submit a renewal application to the school district.
- B. A charter school renewal application shall contain at least the following:
 - 1. a report on the progress of the charter school's achievement of goals, objectives, pupil performance standards, content standards, and other terms as outlined in the existing charter school contractual agreement;
 - 2. a financial statement that discloses income and disbursements understandable to the general public; and

3. a minimum of three measurable objectives for each year covered under the requested charter school contractual agreement renewal period.

C. A charter school contractual agreement may be terminated or not renewed if the School Board determines that the charter school:

1. fails to meet the requirements for student performance as stated in the charter school contractual agreement;

2. fails to meet generally accepted standards of fiscal management;

3. commits a violation of law; or

4. other good cause shown.

D. A charter school contractual agreement may be terminated or not renewed if the School Board determines that it is not in the best interest of the pupils residing within the school district to continue the operation of the charter school.

XX. Evaluation

The Superintendent shall establish procedures by which charter schools will be reviewed annually, with the results transmitted to the School Board and the Florida Department of Education. These procedures shall include, but not be limited to, the following provisions:

A. written documentary evidence shall be provided by each charter school, via its annual report, to show the level at which the charter school is achieving its goals as set forth in the charter school contractual agreement;

B. each charter school's annual report will be reviewed and analyzed by the district's Office of Evaluation and Research. An analysis of the charter school's standardized test scores, as compared to the scores of other district schools with similar student populations, will also be conducted;

C. the results of the annual review conducted by the Office of Evaluation and Research shall be transmitted to the School Board and the Florida Department of Education; and

D. at the time of contract renewal, evaluative data pertaining to the charter school will be provided to the School Board at least four weeks prior to the date on which renewal of the charter school contractual agreement will be considered for approval.

Specific Authority: 230.22(2); 230.23(18) F.S.

Law Implemented, Interpreted, or Made Specific: Sections 228.056, 228.0561, 228.057(9) F.S.; 6A-6.0781 FAC

History

New: 7-24-96

Technical Change: 5-1-98

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA