

March 22, 2000

Roger C. Cuevas, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION TO ESTABLISH A JOINT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SCHOOLS PLANNING COMMITTEE WITH LOCAL COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES AND ISSUE REQUESTS FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SCHOOLS

Professional Development Schools (PDS) are collaborations between schools, colleges and universities, school districts, and professional associations. Unlike laboratory schools, these collaborations are not intended simply to provide new settings for student teaching. PDS establish an environment of shared responsibility where learning opportunities for adults and children are integrated, individual and institutional renewal are augmented, and the process of continuous improvement in teaching and learning at all levels is enhanced. PDS collaborations in Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) will provide opportunities for the development of innovative programs, the examination of best practices in teaching and learning, and ongoing professional development in support of the Professional Assessment and Comprehensive Evaluation System (PACES).

In order to determine interest on behalf of local colleges and universities, as well as individual M-DCPS school sites, the development and dissemination of Requests for Participation are proposed. These Requests for Participation will indicate an interest and commitment to proposed collaborative relationships and programs which, with approval, will move to a Planning Stage during the 2000-2001 school year and an Implementation Stage during the 2001-2002 school year.

Additionally, in response to revised Teacher Preparation Program requirements developed by the Florida Department of Education, and in an effort to improve teaching and learning opportunities for all students, the creation of a Professional Development Schools Planning Committee is also proposed. This committee will:

1. determine the readiness and interest levels of local colleges and universities and individual schools pertaining to the establishment of professional development schools;
2. develop and disseminate Requests for Participation forms to interested institutions and schools;
3. invite representatives from interested institutions and schools to serve on the aforementioned Planning Committee;

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4. establish formal guidelines for the planning, development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of professional development schools within Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS);
5. monitor the development of professional development school collaborations through both the Planning Stage (School Year 2000-2001) and the Implementation Stage (School Year 2001-2002);
6. ensure that proposed professional development schools are designed and implemented jointly by M-DCPS and the collaborating institutions; and
7. monitor the joint implementation and evaluation of professional development schools.

It is anticipated that the Professional Development Schools Planning Committee will meet in May 2000. A report on planning activities and proposed professional development school collaborations will be presented to the Board during the 2000-2001 school year.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida:

1. authorize the Superintendent to establish a Professional Development Schools Planning Committee, which will consist of M-DCPS staff, representatives from the Dade Association of School Administrators (DASA), representatives from the United Teachers of Dade (UTD), and representatives from local colleges, universities, and interested schools;
2. authorize the Superintendent to issue Requests for Participation in the joint development of professional development school sites to local colleges and universities, and interested schools; and
3. direct the Superintendent to provide the Board with a report outlining professional development school collaborations proposed during the 2000-2001 school year.

There is no cost to the district as a result of this item.

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