

May 8, 2000

Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman, Chair

**SUBJECT: REQUEST THAT THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
DIRECT THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS TO ESTABLISH A SPANISH
AND HAITIAN-CREOLE READING INSTITUTE FOR TEACHERS**

The movement towards biliteracy, the ability to communicate effectively both orally and in writing in two languages, continues to grow as the business and educational communities become increasingly aware of the economic need and value of languages. Secretary of Education Richard W. Riley, recently endorsed dual-language programs stating that the nation's economic competitiveness would be enhanced if dual-language instruction expands and more students learn to speak both English and another language.

The Miami-Dade County Public Schools Ad Hoc Multilingual Task Force, established at the School Board meeting of September 10, 1997, made recommendations in order to strengthen the language proficiency of teachers assigned to teach in a language other than English (i.e., Spanish and Haitian-Creole). In order for our students to benefit from dual-language programs, teachers need continuous staff development and update on recent developments. Therefore, to achieve this goal, it is recommended that a Spanish and a Haitian-Creole Reading Institute for Teachers be established from June 19-28, 2000. Staff from the Division of Bilingual/Foreign Language Skills will facilitate the Reading Institute for 70 Spanish and Haitian-Creole teachers at a cost not to exceed \$66,000. For the Summer 2000 Reading Institute, teachers and facilitators will receive a daily stipend and 60 Master Plan Points through the Teacher Education Center. Funding will be provided through the Title II Eisenhower Professional Development Program.

It is further recommended that a Request for Proposals (RFP) be sent out to local universities interested in entering into a contractual agreement with Miami-Dade County Public Schools to offer graduate credits for the Reading Institute for Teachers in subsequent years. Beginning with the 2001 Reading Institute, teachers will receive three graduate credits and no stipend.

ACTION PROPOSED BY

MS. PERLA TABARES HANTMAN:

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, direct the Superintendent to:

1. establish a Spanish and Haitian-Creole Reading Institute for 70 teachers from June 19-28, 2000 at a cost not to exceed \$66,000, with funding to be provided through the Title II Eisenhower Professional Development Program; and
2. submit a Request for Proposals (RFP) to local universities in order to enter into a contractual agreement with Miami-Dade County Public Schools to offer three graduate credits for the Reading Institute for Teachers in subsequent years.