

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 LANGUAGE AND CULTURE IMMERSION PROGRAM FOR ADMINISTRATORS

The ethnic composition of Miami-Dade County Public Schools' student population continues to grow in diversity. Our active student population represents well over 150 different countries. From July 1, 1999 through April 10, 2000, a total of 17,509 new foreign-born students from 134 countries have registered in our schools. The ethnic breakdown of our current students is approximately 31.4% Black of which 7.4% is Haitian, 55% Hispanic, 11.6% White, and 2% Other.

The need for school site personnel to communicate effectively with such a diverse student population and their families is a growing challenge. In order to assist administrators to acquire basic oral communication skills, it is recommended that a six-day Immersion Program in Spanish and Haitian-Creole be established during the 2000-2001 school year. Staff from the Division of Bilingual/Foreign Language Skills and school site teachers will facilitate the Immersion Program for 40 administrators to attend the Spanish and Haitian-Creole program at a cost not to exceed \$40,000. The cost of the program includes hotel accommodations for participants and facilitators.

ACTION PROPOSED BY

MS. PERLA TABARES HANTMAN:

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, direct the Superintendent to establish a Spanish and Haitian-Creole Immersion Program for 40 administrators during the 2000-2001 school year at a cost not to exceed \$40,000.

The appropriation for this item is being requested as part of the 2000-2001 tentative budget to be recommended for adoption in July, 2000.