

Education
Joseph H. Mathos, Deputy Superintendent

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT TO ENTER INTO A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH THE MENNINGER FOUNDATION, A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION IN TOPEKA, KANSAS, FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PEACEFUL SCHOOLS PROGRAM AT TWO TO-BE-DETERMINED MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS' ELEMENTARY SITES, FROM AUGUST 28, 2000 THROUGH JUNE 13, 2001

Authorization is sought for a cooperative agreement with the Menninger Foundation, a nonprofit organization in Topeka, Kansas, for the establishment of a Peaceful Schools Program at two to-be-determined Miami-Dade County Public Schools' (M-DCPS) elementary school sites. There will be no cost to the district for the implementation of this pilot program. The two schools selected will implement the program during the 2000-2001 school year. Selection of the schools will be made by M-DCPS, based primarily upon interest and participation in and philosophical commitment to the Peaceful Schools Program mission and objectives.

The Peaceful Schools project is an innovative violence prevention program which is targeted for elementary school children. Its aims include prevention and crisis intervention. Significantly, this project is evaluated on a continuing basis by researchers from the Child & Family Center of the Menninger Foundation. M-DCPS' district and school-site staff will be informed at regular intervals of the research findings. The Menninger Foundation and M-DCPS will share and retain a non-exclusive right to data collected from the schools participating in the project.

Key staff from the selected schools will travel to Topeka, Kansas, for three days of training in August 2000. The staff to be sent will include: principals, counselors, two teachers from each site, and one physical education teacher. During the first semester of the 2000-2001 school year, staff from the Menninger Foundation will come to Miami to provide technical assistance. Periodically at selected future intervals, Foundation staff will make visitations to the two program sites. Expenses for the travel and training of M-DCPS employees will be underwritten by the Menninger Foundation.

The President and Chief Executive Officer of the Menninger Foundation is Dr. W. Walter Menninger.

No local funds are required.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to enter into a cooperative agreement with the Menninger Foundation, a nonprofit organization in Topeka, Kansas, for the establishment of a Peaceful Schools program at two to-be-determined Miami-Dade County Public Schools' elementary sites, from August 28, 2000 through June 13, 2001.

No local funds are required.

NJP:mjc