

Education

Joseph H. Mathos, Deputy Superintendent

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT OR DESIGNEE TO ENTER INTO A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH THE AMER-I-CAN PROGRAM, INC., A NONPROFIT CORPORATION, TO PROVIDE A LIFE MANAGEMENT SKILLS PROGRAM FOR 300 MIDDLE AND SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL AT-RISK STUDENTS, FROM NOVEMBER 16, 2000 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2001

Authorization is sought for the Superintendent to enter into a cooperative agreement with the Amer-I-Can Program, Inc., a nonprofit corporation, to provide a life management skills program for 300 middle and senior high school at-risk students in Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS). This will be an after-school enrichment program. There is no cost to the district. Funding was appropriated last year by the Florida Legislature, specifically to the Ameri-I-Can, Inc., for implementation in school districts designated by the Florida Department of Education. The amount of \$250,000 was appropriated to be used in M-DCPS to serve disadvantaged students with proclivities to behavioral problems. M-DCPS, the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), and the juvenile court will refer students to the program. The Bureau of Adult/Vocational, Alternative and Dropout Prevention Programs staff will work with DJJ and Amer-I-Can Program staff to identify sites that are available after school and on Saturday.

The Amer-I-Can Program, Inc., was founded in 1988 by National Football League Hall of Fame member Jim Brown. Mr. Brown's belief in the potential of children, through the raising of self-esteem, together with life skills training, resulted in the present nationally-recognized Amer-I-Can curriculum. The program is designed for secondary students whose profiles include negative behavioral patterns, poor attendance, and low grade point averages.

Under the aegis of the Amer-I-Can Program, Inc., students will complete a fifteen-chapter, 80-90 hour self-esteem and life management course. A trained facilitator from Amer-I-Can works with each student and provides the materials. Progress is monitored daily by observation and participation. The Amer-I-Can Program, Inc., has a solid track record nationally of success with at-risk students.

The Founder and President of the Amer-I-Can Program, Inc., is Mr. Jim Brown.

This will be the first year of the cooperative agreement.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent or designee to enter into a cooperative agreement with the Amer-I-Can Program, Inc., a nonprofit corporation, to provide a life management skills program for 300 at-risk middle and senior high school students, from November 16, 2000 through June 30, 2001.

No local funds are required.

NJP:mjc