

Education
Joseph H. Mathos, Deputy Superintendent

SUBJECT: ENTER INTO A CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT WITH BARRY UNIVERSITY TO PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR 15 K-12 TEACHERS TO EARN A MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREE IN EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT EDUCATION

Authorization is requested for the Superintendent or his designee to enter into a contractual agreement with Barry University to provide an opportunity for a maximum of 15 Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) teachers in the K-12 program to earn a Master of Science Degree in Exceptional Student Education, with specialization in Emotional Disturbance and Autism. Recognizing the existence of critical staffing shortages in Exceptional Student Education programs, and responding to the manifest need for highly skilled teachers to fill these positions, M-DCPS and Barry University, in collaboration with the United Teachers of Dade (UTD), have developed a Master of Science Degree Program in Exceptional Student Education, with a specialization in Emotional Disturbance and Autism.

The proposed program would be offered from September 1, 2001 through August 30, 2003. The reduced cost per graduate credit is \$280 for a total of 36 graduate credits. Funding in the amount of \$130 per graduate credit is available through the Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) Tuition Reimbursement Account for a total of \$70,200. The remaining \$150 per credit will be funded by Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part B, funds for a total of \$81,000. The total cost of this program will not exceed \$151,200.

The appropriation for this item will be included in the 2001-2002 Tentative Budget to be recommended for adoption in July 2001 under Fund 0420, Function 6300, Program 3031, Object 5310, Location 9615 and the District Tuition Reimbursement Fund.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent or his designee to enter into a contractual agreement with Barry University to provide an opportunity for a maximum of 15 Miami-Dade County Public Schools teachers in the K-12 program to earn a Master of Science Degree in Exceptional Student Education, with specialization in Emotional Disturbance and Autism, from September 1, 2001 through August 30, 2003, for a total cost not to exceed \$151,200.

The appropriation for this item will be included in the 2001-2002 Tentative Budget to be recommended for adoption in July 2001.

RKF/sac