

Dr. Robert B. Ingram, Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO DIRECT THE SUPERINTENDENT TO REQUIRE NEWLY HIRED TEACHERS WHO HAVE NOT PASSED A GENERAL KNOWLEDGE TEST, WHICH IS REQUIRED FOR STATE CERTIFICATION, SUCH AS THE COLLEGE LEVEL ACADEMIC SKILLS TEST (CLAST), TO PARTICIPATE IN TRAINING COURSES OFFERED BY THE TEACHER EDUCATION CENTER, AS A CONDITION OF EMPLOYMENT

Florida Statutes, Section 231.17, requires teachers to demonstrate mastery of general knowledge by passing a required test, currently the CLAST or The Praxis I, as one of the requirements for a Florida Professional Educators' Certificate, within one calendar year of employment. A school district is now allowed to continue to employ the individual needing to present a passing score on the general knowledge test, who is under contract at the end of the calendar year, until the end of the contract year.

Most of Miami-Dade County Public Schools' newly hired teachers have already passed the aforementioned test prior to employment; however, some teachers have passed a majority of the sections of the general knowledge test, failing to pass one section. Requiring these teachers to participate in training courses offered by the Teacher Education Center would assist the teachers in meeting certification requirements and assist the district in retaining qualified teachers. This requirement will become a condition of employment and be included in the instructional staffing application packet.

The Teacher Education Center will offer monthly classes, specifically designed to focus on meeting requirements of the general knowledge tests, after school and on weekends, at no cost to teachers. The general knowledge tests mastery of reading, English Language, computation, and writing skills.

ACTION PROPOSED

BY DR. ROBERT B. INGRAM: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, direct the Superintendent to require newly hired teachers who have not passed a general knowledge test, which is required for state certification, such as the College Level Academic Skills Test (CLAST), to participate in training courses offered by the Teacher Education Center, as a condition of employment.