

August 10, 2001

Education  
Joseph H. Mathos, Deputy Superintendent

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT OR HIS DESIGNEE TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT WITH RIVERDEEP, INC. FOR MATHEMATICS, SCIENCE, AND LANGUAGE ARTS SOFTWARE, HARDWARE, TRAINING, AND SUPPORT FOR GRADES 4-10, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$1,300,000, FROM AUGUST 23, 2001 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2004**

This is a request for authorization to enter into a three-year contract with Riverdeep, Inc. as an Application Service Provider (ASP) for mathematics, science and language arts software for grades 4-10. An ASP allows the district to move beyond the traditional model of standalone software to an Internet strategy of interchangeable components that are accessible 24 hours a day, 7 days a week through the district portal [dadeschools.net](http://dadeschools.net). This strategy promotes equitable access of quality content for all students and teachers.

In addition to comprehensive software, the contract includes 300 IBM computers that will be placed in middle schools where the primary focus of the implementation will be on mathematics and science instruction to support the goals of the Mathematics and Science Comprehensive Plan and the Urban Systemic Program (USP). The schools selected to receive the computers will be based on need as indicated in the 2000-2001 Instructional Technology Statistics report and the indicated desire of the schools to participate in an ongoing evaluation of the model's impact on teaching and learning. Project management includes onsite support for the life of the contract and a comprehensive and ongoing staff development plan to be determined by the district and individual schools. The district implementation plan will also focus on the training of educational specialists that support the USP thus ensuring district fidelity of implementation.

The committee established by School Board Rule 6Gx13-3F-1.021 reviewed this contract on August 8, 2001, and recommended that an exception to the rule regarding bids or Request for Proposals be granted because the institution has specific expertise in this respective area.

The total cost for the contract is \$1,300,000 to be paid over a three-year period. The actual cost for the software portion of the contract is \$3.86 per student for the three-year period. The appropriation for this item is included in the 2001-2002 Tentative Adopted Budget under the following structures: Fund 0100, Function 6200, Program 8600, Objects 5640 and 5390, Location 9629; Fund 0100, Function 5000, Program 0996, Object 5640, Location 9629; and Fund 0100, Function 5102, Program 8560, Object 5520, and Location 9629.

**RECOMMENDED:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida:

1. authorize the Superintendent or his designee to enter into a contractual agreement with Riverdeep, Inc. for mathematics, science, and language arts software, hardware, training, and support for grades 4-10, in an amount not to exceed \$1,300,000, from August 23, 2001 through June 30, 2004; and
2. grant an exception to School Board Rule 6Gx13- 3F-1.021.

The appropriation for this item is included in the 2001-2002 Tentative Adopted Budget.

JHM:mr