

October 10, 2001

Education
Joseph H. Mathos, Deputy Superintendent

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT TO ENTER INTO A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF HIALEAH POLICE DEPARTMENT TO OPERATE A CENTER FOR OUTDOOR SUSPENSION, FROM OCTOBER 25, 2001 THROUGH AUGUST 30, 2002

On November 15, 2000, The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorized the Superintendent to enter into a cooperative agreement with the City of Hialeah Police Department to open a Center for Outdoor Suspension (COS) to accommodate students who had been suspended from Henry H. Filer Middle School, Hialeah Middle School, Jose Marti Middle School, and Palm Springs Middle School to provide them with counseling and educational services. Students who are suspended from these schools will be given an option to attend the COS housed at Jose Marti Middle School. Parents/guardians are responsible for transportation.

The Hialeah Police Department (HPD) has received additional funding from the Florida Department of Human Services and the City of Hialeah that it be utilized for the funding of a COS. Under the aegis of this program, students received tutoring with emphasis on basic skills. The instructional component of the program was supplemented with anger management, conflict resolution, survival skills, and the rewards inherent in ethical behavior. Upon authorization, the HPD placed a police officer, a social worker, and teachers in the COS housed at Jose Marti Middle School. Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) provided the space for the facility and recommended appropriate teachers. HPD reimbursed M-DCPS for the teachers' salaries.

Authorization is requested to enter into a cooperative agreement with HPD to continue the COS which is housed at Jose Marti Middle School. Students in the program will benefit greatly from the small staff-student ratio, interaction with law enforcement, and the skill and character-building components of the program. Students' attendance at the COS will ensure behavioral modification and academic improvement.

No local funds are required.

Mr. Rolando D. Bolaños is the Chief of Police for the Hialeah Police Department.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to enter into a cooperative agreement with the City of Hialeah Police Department to operate a Center for Outdoor Suspension housed at Jose Marti Middle School for suspended students from Henry H. Filer Middle School, Hialeah Middle School, Jose Marti Middle School, and Palm Springs Middle School, from October 25, 2001 through August 30, 2002.

No local funds are required.

NJP:jc