

Education
Joseph H. Mathos, Deputy Superintendent

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT OR HIS DESIGNEE TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT WITH HARRIS AND ASSOCIATES FOR CONSULTATION AND TRAINING IN THE FLORIDA UNITING STUDENTS IN EDUCATION (F.U.S.E.) MODEL OF COLLABORATION AND CO-TEACHING FOR INCLUSIVE CLASSROOMS, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$18,800, FROM DECEMBER 1, 2001 THROUGH AUGUST 31, 2002

The Office of Exceptional Student Education (ESE) and Psychological Services is requesting authorization for the Superintendent or his designee to enter into a contractual agreement with Harris and Associates to train general and exceptional education teacher teams in the Florida Uniting Students in Education (F.U.S.E.) training model of co-teaching and collaboration for inclusive classrooms (general and exceptional education students). The reauthorization of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) mandates that students with disabilities are educated alongside their non-disabled peers to the maximum extent appropriate. This requires that general and exceptional education teachers collaborate and combine instructional practices for the benefit of all students.

The Office of ESE is recommending a contractual agreement with Harris and Associates for Dr. Deborah Harris and a designated co-trainer to conduct workshops and provide consultation and school-based technical assistance to general and exceptional education teachers serving students in inclusive classrooms. The contractual agreement with Harris and Associates will include up to nine days of training and on-site consultation, in an amount not to exceed \$18,800.

The Professional Services Contract Committee established by School Board Rule 6Gx13-3F-1.021 reviewed this contractual agreement on October 26, 2001, and recommended that an exception to the rule regarding bids or Request for Proposals be granted as otherwise determined by the Committee.

The appropriation for this item is included in the IDEA, Part B, Special Project: Florida Inclusion Network, under Fund 0420, Function 6400, Program 4101, Object 5310, Location 9615.

The President of Harris and Associates is Dr. Deborah Harris.

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

1. authorize the Superintendent or his designee to enter into a contractual agreement with Harris and Associates to provide consultation and training in the Florida Uniting Students in Education (F.U.S.E.) model of collaboration and co-teaching, in an amount not to exceed \$18,800, from December 1, 2001 through August 31, 2002; and
2. grant an exception to School Board Rule 6Gx13-3F-1.021.

The appropriation for this item is included in the IDEA, Part B, Special Project: Florida Inclusion Network, under Fund 0420, Function 6400, Program 4101, Object 5310, Location 9615.

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