

Education
Joseph H. Mathos, Deputy Superintendent

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT TO
ISSUE A REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR MENTAL HEALTH
PROFESSIONALS/AGENCIES TO PROVIDE COUNSELING SERVICES
IN 20 PROGRAMS FOR EMOTIONALLY HANDICAPPED STUDENTS,
FROM JULY 1, 2002 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2003**

Authorization is requested for the Superintendent to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for mental health professionals/agencies to provide counseling services in 20 programs for emotionally handicapped (EH) students. Miami-Dade County Public Schools has been providing counseling services in programs for EH students through professional services contracts since 1991. These services include individual and group counseling, parent and/or teacher consultation, and record keeping.

Consultant contracts for the 20 programs, in 18 school sites, in an amount not to exceed \$711,000, will be developed to provide services from July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2003. Pending funding availability, School Board approval will be requested to extend contracts which have been satisfactorily completed for up to two additional one-year periods.

The selection of consultants will be made by a committee on the basis of several factors including qualifications, ability to provide bilingual services, and fee. The proposal members of the selection committee are:

- a region director for Exceptional Student Education or designee
- a supervisor for the Division of Exceptional Student Education
- a representative from Psychological Services
- a representative from the Superintendent's District Advisory Panel for ESE
- a representative from the Division of Business Development and Assistance
- a representative from the Bureau of Procurement and Materials Management
- a representative from each school receiving contracted counseling services
- a representative from United Teachers of Dade

The estimated timeline for implementation is as follows:

Procurement Contract Review Committee	January 31, 2002
Request Board approval to issue RFP and approval of Selection Committee	February 13, 2002
Mailing of RFP	February 22, 2002
Opening of Proposals	March 21, 2002
Evaluations completed by Selection Committee	March 26, 2002
Contract Award	May 15, 2002

A copy of the RFP will be provided to Board Members under separate cover prior to the School Board Meeting of February 13, 2002, and will be available for inspection by the public in the Office of Board Recording Secretary, and the Citizen Information Center.

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

1. authorize the Superintendent to issue a Request for Proposals for mental health professionals/agencies to provide counseling services in 20 programs for emotionally handicapped students, in an amount not to exceed \$711,000, from July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2003; and
2. approve the selection committee to evaluate proposals submitted.

RKF/gb