

Education  
Mercedes Toural, Associate Superintendent

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT TO ENTER INTO A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH THE BERTHA ABESS CHILDREN'S CENTER INC., TO PROVIDE SERVICES TO EMOTIONALLY HANDICAPPED AND SEVERELY EMOTIONALLY DISTURBED STUDENTS, FROM JULY 1, 2002 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2003**

Authorization is requested for the Superintendent to enter into a cooperative agreement with the Bertha Abess Children's Center (BACC) Inc., to provide services to emotionally handicapped (EH) and severely emotionally disturbed (SED) students and their families. The combined resources of Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) and BACC have resulted in the delivery of comprehensive services to SED and EH students placed in psychoeducational day-treatment programs at M-DCPS sites. Additionally, BACC provides services to the SED program at Jackson Memorial Hospital/Highland Park. This cooperative agreement has been in effect since 1981.

M-DCPS provides facilities, teachers, materials, supplies, and transportation. BACC provides input into the hiring of instructional personnel; however, the authority rests with the school-site administrator to make final personnel decisions. Services provided to EH and SED students by BACC include expressive arts, individual and group therapy, crisis intervention, family counseling, parent education, home visits, in-home interventions, on-going staff training, and referral services, as required by each student's Individual Educational Plan. In addition, psychiatric consultation services are provided for EH and SED students, as needed.

The Executive Director of Bertha Abess Children's Center Inc., is Ms. Carolyn Jenkins-Jaeger.

There is no exchange of funds.

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

1. to enter into a cooperative agreement with the Bertha Abess Children's Center, Inc., to provide services to emotionally handicapped and severely emotionally disturbed students, from July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2003; and
2. to renew the cooperative agreement for up to two additional one-year periods.

There is no exchange of funds.