

February 25, 2002

Education
Mercedes Toural, Associate Superintendent

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT A GRANT AWARD FROM THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOR FUNDING UNDER THE SCHOOLWIDE CHANGE FOR IMPROVED STUDENT PERFORMANCE THROUGH THE HELP ONE STUDENT TO SUCCEED (HOSTS) PROGRAM AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT WITH THE HOSTS CORPORATION TO PROVIDE PROGRAM SERVICES: PROJECT CYCLE: OCTOBER 1, 2001 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2002

The Conference Report on Senate Bill 2000, Specific Appropriation 7B, authorizes the Commissioner of Education to award grant funds to support school-wide change designed to improve student performance. The HOSTS Language Arts program, a structured mentoring program, will be implemented to improve student achievement in the area of reading. Grant funds have been awarded in the amount of \$156,000 to fund projects in three Miami-Dade County public schools with a performance level of "D" as designated by Florida's High-Quality Education System.

The following three Miami-Dade County public schools elected to participate in the Schoolwide Change for Improved Student Performance through the HOSTS Program: Golden Glades, Holmes, and Shadowlawn Elementary Schools. Funds in the amount of \$ 52,000 per school will be used to purchase HOSTS language arts materials. The schools will recruit mentors who will volunteer their time to work with individual students using HOSTS materials and strategies.

Authorization is requested to enter into a contractual agreement with HOSTS Corporation in an amount not to exceed \$156,000 to provide services for the program.

Official notification relative to this grant was received on January 29, 2002, which is after the start of the budget period. The budget period for this award allows for reimbursement of expenditures from October 1, 2001.

Mr. Gene Frost is the Chief Executive Officer of the HOSTS Corporation.

No local funds are required.

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

1. accept a grant award in the amount of \$156,000 for funding under the Schoolwide Change for Improved Student Performance through the Help One Student To Succeed (HOSTS) Program, and enter into a contractual agreement with, the HOSTS Corporation, in an amount not to exceed \$156,000, to provide program services: Project Cycle: October 1, 2001 through September 30, 2002;
2. extend this contractual agreement, at no additional cost, for up to one year, as authorized through official notification from the granting agency; if deemed necessary, in order to fully expend the grant award and thus complete the scope of the project; and
3. direct Financial Affairs to establish appropriations in the amounts approved by the granting agency; such appropriations to be reported periodically to the Board.

MT/mpt