

Education
Mercedes Toural, Associate Superintendent

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION TO PARTICIPATE IN PROJECT R.E.A.L.M. (REALLY EXPLORING AND LEARNING METEOROLOGY) AND TO ACCEPT A DONATION OF WEATHER STATION EQUIPMENT AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FROM FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY (FSU), FROM MAY 1, 2002 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2004

The Meteorology Department and Science Education program of Florida State University (FSU), in collaboration with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), have received a grant award from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to implement a middle school meteorological project entitled R.E.A.L.M. (Really Exploring and Learning Meteorology) in Miami-Dade County Public Schools. This project will involve eighteen selected middle schools across the District.

The primary purpose of R.E.A.L.M. is to increase the science content knowledge of the participating teachers in the area of earth/space science and technology. A secondary purpose is to expose middle school students, especially under-represented females, to real world science, mathematics and technology and to promote careers in these areas. An RFP process will be implemented to select the schools that will participate. Selected schools will receive state-of-the-art weather stations equipped with satellite downlinks that will be maintained through the grant and become District property at the end of the grant period.

Teachers involved in the project will receive extensive professional development and will participate in summer institutes at FSU. Teachers will receive both monthly stipends for participation during the school year, as well as, stipends and expense paid trips to the summer institutes.

No local funds are required.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to participate in Project R.E.A.L.M. (Really Exploring and Learning Meteorology) and to accept a donation of weather station equipment and professional development from Florida State University (FSU), from May 1, 2002 through December 31, 2004.

No local funds are required.

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