

Education  
Mercedes Toural, Associate Superintendent

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT WITH THE FLORIDA UNIT OF THE RECORDING FOR THE BLIND AND DYSLEXIC (RFB&D) TO PROVIDE ANNUAL INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIPS, INDIVIDUAL STUDENT MEMBERSHIPS, CONDUCT OUTREACH ACTIVITIES, PROVIDE LIBRARY SERVICES, AND PRODUCE REQUIRED AUDIO TAPE PRODUCTS, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$189,000, FROM JULY 1, 2002 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2003**

Authorization is requested for the Superintendent to enter into a contractual agreement with the Florida Unit of the Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic (RFB&D), to provide annual institutional memberships, individual student memberships, conduct outreach activities, provide library services, and produce required audio tape products for use by schools and individual students, in an amount not to exceed \$189,000. This contractual agreement was \$228,000 for the 2001-2002 school year. Training is provided by RFB&D outreach personnel to teachers, school personnel, parents, and students on the use of audio materials for students with disabilities. Miami-Dade County Public Schools has contracted with RFB&D since 1994.

RFB&D is a part of a national nonprofit organization which provides recorded textbooks, library services, and other educational resources to people who cannot read standard print because of a visual, physical, or perceptual disability. Located in Miami, it is the only unit of RFB&D in the State of Florida. An evaluation of RFB&D was completed by the Office of Evaluation and Research in January 2001 and the program was found to be effective in improving reading performance and it was recommended that the program should be continued.

The Professional Services Contract Committee established by School Board Rule 6Gx13-3F-1.021, reviewed this contractual agreement on May 31, 2002, and recommended that an exception to the rule regarding bids or Request for Proposals be granted as the contractor is the sole source provider. RFB&D is the only provider nationwide of textbooks in audio format with specific techniques designed for the print disabled.

The appropriation for this item will be included in the 2002-2003 Tentative Budget to be recommended for adoption in July 2002 in the Contracted Programs Fund under Fund 0420, Function 5200, Program 3531, Object 5310, Location 9615.

The Executive Director for the Florida Unit of the Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic is Ms. Christine McCarthy.

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

1. authorize the Superintendent to enter into a contractual agreement with the Florida Unit for the Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic (RFB&D) to provide annual institutional memberships, individual student memberships, conduct outreach activities, provide library services, and produce required audio tape products, in an amount not to exceed \$189,000, from July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2003; and
2. grant an exception to School Board Rule 6Gx13-3F-1.021.

The appropriation for this item will be included in the 2002-2003 Tentative Budget to be recommended for adoption in July 2002.

RKF:cb