

Personnel Management and Services  
Magaly C. Abrahante, Chief Personnel Officer

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO FORMAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SCHOOL AGREEMENTS WITH BARRY UNIVERSITY, FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY, UNION INSTITUTE AND UNIVERSITY, AND THE UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI**

Professional Development Schools (PDSs) are collaborations between schools, colleges and universities, school districts, and professional associations. Unlike laboratory schools, these collaborations are not intended simply to provide new settings for student teaching. PDSs establish an environment of shared responsibility where learning opportunities for adults and children are integrated, individual and institutional renewal is augmented, and the process of continuous improvement in teaching and learning at all levels is enhanced. PDS collaborations in Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) will provide opportunities for the development of innovative programs, the examination of best practices in teaching and learning, and ongoing professional development.

Faced with critical staffing shortage areas for teachers, looming teacher shortages, and increased calls for improved teacher effectiveness, M-DCPS can embrace the PDS movement as one means of systemic improvement. These collaborations unite key stakeholders in meaningful partnerships for one clear purpose – the improvement of teaching and learning opportunities for all students in M-DCPS.

At the School Board Meeting of April 12, 2000, the School Board authorized the creation of a Professional Development Schools Planning Committee. The Committee was charged with the planning, development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of professional development school collaborations. As one result of the actions of this committee, the following institutions request at this time to formalize collaborations that have been agreed to by the participating institutions:

Barry University:

- Citrus Grove Elementary School
- Hubert O. Sibley Elementary School
- Linda Lentin Elementary School
- Miami Shores/Barry Charter School
- Pine Lake Elementary School

Florida International University: G. Holmes Braddock Senior High School  
Dr. Carlos J. Finlay Elementary School

Union Institute and University: Golden Glades Elementary School

University of Miami: Bel-Aire Elementary School  
Coral Gables Senior High School  
Flamingo Elementary School  
Frances S. Tucker Elementary School  
Kensington Park Elementary School  
Poinciana Park Elementary School  
Ponce de Leon Middle School  
West Laboratory Elementary School

Authorization is requested to enter into Professional Development School agreements with Barry University, Florida International University, Union Institute and University, and the University of Miami.

Documents pertaining to this item are available through the Recording Secretary of the School Board and the Citizen Information Center. There are no additional costs to the district as a result of the implementation of this item.

**RECOMMENDED:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent of Schools to enter into Professional Development School agreements with Barry University, Florida International University, Union Institute and University, and the University of Miami.

MCA:ap