

August 9, 2002

Education
Mercedes Toural, Associate Superintendent

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION TO RENEW THE
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE
FRENCH MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND MIAMI-DADE
COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**COMMITTEE: ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION AND SCHOOL
OPERATIONS**

At its meeting of September 9, 1987, the School Board authorized the Superintendent to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Miami-Dade County Public Schools. The first such MOU envisioned the establishment of the French Section of the International Education Program. At its meeting of January 30, 1989, the School Board approved an amendment to the Memorandum. Since then, the MOU was renewed once on September 1, 1991, for a period of one year, automatically extended annually. Since its inception, the French Section of the International Studies Program has been an academically excellent K-12 program, and The French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Miami-Dade County Public Schools have established a successful history of educational collaboration. The program is currently offered at Sunset Elementary, Carver Middle, and Coral Reef Senior High Schools.

Authorization is being requested to renew the MOU. The proposed renewal continues the terms and conditions of the original MOU. The French Ministry of Foreign Affairs will continue to provide four (4) French Language Arts teachers to provide direct instructional services in the participating schools. In addition, it will continue to provide support to the school programs in the form of budgetary contributions for instructional materials and equipment, staff development for World Languages - French teachers, the promotion of parental involvement, and cultural/educational activities.

Programs included in the MOU are part of Magnet Programs. Funding is included in the magnet program appropriation for each school.

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RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to renew the Memorandum of Understanding between the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Miami-Dade County Public Schools for a period of three (3) years, with an automatic annual extension until a new MOU is signed.

The appropriation for this item is included in the Funds for Magnet Programs in the following fund structures: Fund 0100, Program 9761, Function 6300 (Sunset Elementary School); Fund 0100, Program 9628, Function 6300 (Carver Middle School); and Fund 0100, Program 9712, Function 6300 (Coral Reef Senior High School).

LCR:JHU:mvz