

Education
Mercedes Tournal, Associate Superintendent

SUBJECT: REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT TO ENTER INTO A PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT WITH DEPENDABLE EDUCATIONAL PRODUCTS COMPANY (DEPCO), INC., IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$75,000, TO INITIATE THE PURCHASE OF A STATE-OF-THE-ART ANIMAL BIOTECHNOLOGY LABORATORY FOR THE AGRISCIENCE PROGRAM AT CORAL REEF SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

COMMITTEE: COMMUNITY, ADULT AND ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION

The Division of Applied Technology, Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS), is in the process of purchasing state-of-the-art equipment for the Animal Biotechnology Program at Coral Reef High School. In the interim, Dependable Educational Products Company (DEPCO), Inc. offered to provide this equipment at approximately fifty percent of its actual price, if a partnership agreement was entered between M-DCPS and DEPCO, Inc.

The partnership agreement will provide special pricing for an Agriscience laboratory, complete with equipment installation, software, training, curriculum and other support materials. This agreement will provide access to free curriculum upgrades, regional and national publicity through open houses, visitations, and printed publications. DEPCO, Inc. will be permitted to invite prospective school administrators and faculty to visit the facility on an appointment basis and to schedule workshops at the school's Agriscience laboratory at the school's convenience.

DEPCO, Inc. has a track record of developing and producing high-quality applied technology education equipment and curriculum materials. This equipment will allow Agriscience students to explore various aspects of the field as they complete hands-on-projects using a multi-media curriculum. The laboratory facilities have been examined and analyzed by school site office and district personnel for their support of the project.

The Professional Service Contract Committee established by School Board Rule 6Gx13-3F-1.021 reviewed this contractual agreement on August 5, 2002, and recommended that an exception to the rule regarding bids or Request For Proposals (RFP) be granted as the contractor has been identified as having specific expertise and due to cost savings. This partnership agreement will be for one year, and subsequent agreements will be entered into only after completing the RFP process.

Authorization is requested to enter into a partnership agreement with DEPCO, Inc. through its distributor, Technical Training Aids, Inc. to facilitate the Animal Biotechnology Program at Coral Reef Senior High. The appropriation for this item is included in the 2002-2003 Carl D. Perkins Grant Budget under Fund 0420, Function 5300, Program 3651, Object 5640, Location 9600.

The Chief Executive Officer of DEPCO, Inc., is Mr. Dennis Hurt.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to enter into a partnership agreement with DEPCO, Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$75,000, to purchase a state-of-the-art Animal Biotechnology Laboratory for the Agriscience Program at Coral Reef Senior High School.

The appropriation for this item is included in the 2002-2003 Tentative Adopted Budget for the Carl D. Perkins Grant.

JHM/RGG:mjm