

August 28, 2002

Education
Mercedes Toural, Associate Superintendent

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT
 TO ENTER INTO A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH PARENT
 TO PARENT OF MIAMI, INC. TO PROVIDE PARENTS OF
 CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES INFORMATION AND TRAINING,
 FROM SEPTEMBER 13, 2002 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2003**

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

Authorization is requested for the Superintendent to enter into a cooperative agreement with Parent to Parent of Miami, Inc. to provide parents of children with disabilities information and training to help improve aptitude and achievement for their children. Parent to Parent in conjunction with Miami-Dade County Public School (M-DCPS) staff will assist parents in understanding the nature of their children's disabilities and educational and developmental needs. This is a new cooperative agreement.

Through the proposed cooperative agreement, Parent to Parent and M-DCPS staff will provide training and information to assist parents in understanding and how to effectively use the procedural safeguards under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). It is necessary for parents to participate in the decision making process of their child's IEP and fully understand the range of options and services available. M-DCPS will provide six parent liaisons, federally funded through IDEA to collaborate, train, provide support services, translate and disseminate information to parents of children with disabilities. This cooperative endeavor will also provide information regarding alternative methods for dispute resolution (e.g., the mediation process described in IDEA).

The President of Parent to Parent of Miami, Inc. is Ms. Elizabeth Fauerbach.

There is no exchange of funds.

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RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami- Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to:

1. enter into a cooperative agreement with Parent to Parent of Miami, Inc. to provide parents of children with disabilities information and training from September 13, 2002 through June 30, 2003; and
2. renew this cooperative agreement annually for up to two additional one-year periods.

There is no exchange of funds.

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