

Education  
Mercedes Toural, Associate Superintendent

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT WITH MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, DIVISION OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT SERVICES (CDS), FOR FUNDING OF PARENTS AS FIRST TEACHERS (PAFT) PROGRAM, EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 1, 2002 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2003**

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

Section 230.2303, Florida Statutes, which mandated the Florida First Start Program, was repealed as of January 1, 2002. To obtain funding to continue the program, Miami-Dade County Public Schools submitted a successful proposal to the Miami-Dade School Readiness Coalition for the Parents as First Teachers (PAFT) Program beginning November 1, 2002.

Parents as First Teachers (PAFT) is an intergenerational family literacy/early childhood program that will be housed at Family Resource Centers in selected school sites. According to the original Florida First Start Grant of 1991, the sites selected were based upon their strategic location in areas with a majority concentration of families in need, as well as space availability. Consideration was also given to facilitate equal access for children with limited English proficiency. The four major components are home visitations, developmentally appropriate center time activities, adult education, and parent/family literacy education. This program will combine developmentally appropriate, research-based programming and early childhood education with needed family support services in an effort to remove barriers for educational success. Funds received for the PAFT program will be used for salaries, supplies, equipment, and travel. Reimbursement is computed based on the ages of the students and the number of days in school.

This agreement serves children referred to seven (7) existing programs: Ethel Koger Beckham, Holmes, Zora Neale Hurston, Kensington Park, Laura C. Saunders, Ethel F. Beckford/Richmond, and Shadowlawn Elementary Schools, by the Miami-Dade County Department of Human Services, Division of Child Development Services including families currently served by the previous program. The funding requested for each center is based upon the number of children served and the number of days the centers are in operation.

The district will be reimbursed for services on a monthly basis based upon the Miami-Dade School Readiness Coalition's reimbursement rate for each age: two (2) and three (3) year olds at \$68.00 per week, and four (4) year olds at \$72.00 per week. Miami-Dade School Readiness Coalition has authorized the use of \$535,000 and these funds are available at the district to supplement the reimbursements. The combined funds will cover the total cost of the program. Appropriations from Miami-Dade County are ultimately adjusted to reflect actual revenues generated by that center.

No local district funds are required.

**RECOMMENDED:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to enter into a contractual agreement with Miami-Dade County, Department of Human Services, Division of Child Development Services (CDS), for funding of Parents As First Teachers (PAFT) program, effective November 1, 2002 through June 30, 2003.

No local district funds are required.

LCR/MEM/lh