

Paul R. Philip, Chief of Staff

SUBJECT: REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT TO INVOLVE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN A COUNTYWIDE SCHOOL SUPPLY COLLECTION SPONSORED BY THE AMERICAN RED CROSS GREATER MIAMI & THE KEYS CHAPTER, FROM FEBRUARY 19, 2003 THROUGH MAY 22, 2003

COMMITTEE: ACCOUNTABILITY AND COMPLIANCE

The School Chest Project of the American Red Cross Greater Miami & The Keys Chapter, requests that Miami-Dade County Public Schools assist the organization in a countywide collection of school supplies for needy children in Latin America and the Caribbean.

This project teaches students about being members of a larger, global community through direct action. Students collect basic school supplies which are then packaged in a chest provided by the local Red Cross and sent to schools and youth centers short on resources in a country recovering from major disasters or other emergencies. This year the designated country is El Salvador. In many areas of this Central American country, schools were severely damaged by hurricanes and earthquakes, and needs are very acute.

The American Red Cross Greater Miami & The Keys will sponsor all related program expenses which include providing and delivering a sturdy plastic bin for every school that elects to participate. School sites will be responsible for delivering the bins to a designated site for Red Cross implementation. Each school will receive a certificate of participation, and the top contributing schools in each level (Elementary, Middle, High) will receive special recognition consisting of an elegantly framed certificate from the Greater Miami & The Keys Chapter of the American Red Cross.

Contingent upon Board approval, the Bureau of Community Services will oversee activities related to Miami-Dade County Public Schools participation in this program.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to involve Miami-Dade County Public Schools in a countywide school supply collection sponsored by the American Red Cross Greater Miami & The Keys Chapter, from February 19, 2003 through May 22, 2003.