

Education
Mercedes Toural, Associate Superintendent

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR SCHOOL BOARD APPROVAL OF THE CHARTER
SCHOOL CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT WITH CHILDREN FIRST
CHARTER SCHOOL, INC., ON BEHALF OF CHILDREN FIRST
CHARTER SCHOOL**

COMMITTEE: EDUCATION AND SCHOOL OPERATIONS

On December 11, 2002, the School Board approved a charter school application submitted by Children First Charter School. The Board authorized the Superintendent to negotiate a charter school contractual agreement with the applicant for a term of five years, commencing with the 2003-2004 school year.

The Charter School Contract Review Committee met on January 31, 2003, and by unanimous vote, made a recommendation for approval of the proposed site and the charter school contractual agreement with Children First Charter School, Inc., on behalf of Children First Charter School.

Children First Charter School will be located at 590 West 20 Street, Hialeah, Florida 33010. The charter school will serve a maximum of 550 students in grades kindergarten through five with 150 students in grades kindergarten through three in its first year of operation.

The following is the Founding Board for Children First Charter School: Miguel A. Balsera, Educator; Gisele Braceras, Business Executive; and Rebecca M. Prieto, Educator. The Governing Board will be selected prior to the opening of the school.

Children First Charter School will be open to any student in grades kindergarten through five residing in Miami-Dade County. District schools in close proximity to the charter school include:

School	Student Population	% Utilization (Permanent Capacity)	% Utilization (Permanent and Relocatable Capacity)	Number of Relocatables
Bright, J.H. Elem.	835	85	85	2
Flamingo Elem.	871	113	106	4
Hialeah Elem.	953	94	81	10
Johnson, J.W. Elem.	169	107	107	1
Miami Springs Elem.	795	111	103	6
South Hialeah Elem.	1,219	155	97	17
Springview Elem.	571	87	87	2
Walters, Mae Elem.	905	104	101	3

Source: School Operations

Section 1002.33, Florida Statutes, Charter Schools, requires that the major issues involved in the operation of charter schools be considered in advance and written into a charter school contractual agreement between the charter school and the Sponsor, following a public hearing to ensure community input.

Copies of the charter school contractual agreement will be placed on file and will be available for inspection in the School Board Members' office, in the Office of Board Recording Secretary, and in the Citizen Information Center.

RECOMMENDED: Recognizing that The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, has previously approved this application, it is recommended that the Board grant approval of the:

1. proposed site; and
2. charter school contractual agreement with Children First Charter School, Inc., on behalf of Children First Charter School, for a term of five years, commencing with the 2003-2004 school year.

MB:dcr