

Office of Human Resources
Marjorie H. Adler, Chief Personnel Officer

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO A FORMAL
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SCHOOL AGREEMENT
BETWEEN SOUTH HIALEAH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND
FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY**

**COMMITTEE: LEGISLATIVE RELATIONS, PUBLIC RELATIONS AND
PERSONNEL SERVICES**

Professional Development Schools (PDSs) are collaborations between schools, colleges and universities, school districts, and professional associations. Unlike laboratory schools, these collaborations are not intended simply to provide new settings for student teaching. PDSs establish an environment of shared responsibility where learning opportunities for adults and children are integrated, individual and institutional renewal is augmented, and the process of continuous improvement in teaching and learning at all levels is enhanced. PDS collaborations in Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) provide opportunities for the development of innovative programs, the examination of best practices in teaching and learning, and ongoing professional development.

Faced with critical staffing shortage areas for teachers and increased calls for improved teacher effectiveness, M-DCPS has embraced the PDS movement as one means of systemic improvement, and currently has collaborations with Barry University, University of Miami, Union Institute and University, and Florida International University. These collaborations unite key stakeholders in meaningful partnerships for one clear purpose – the improvement of teaching and learning for all students in M-DCPS.

At the School Board Meeting of April 12, 2000, the School Board authorized the creation of a Professional Development Schools Planning Committee. The committee was charged with the planning, development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of professional development school collaborations. As a result of the actions of this committee, Florida International University and South Hialeah Elementary School have submitted a Professional Development School Agreement for Board approval. This agreement is supported by the administration, faculty, and parents at South Hialeah Elementary School, and ACCESS Center III, as well as administration and faculty from Florida International University.

Authorization is requested to enter into a Professional Development School agreement between South Hialeah Elementary School and Florida International University. Documents pertaining to this item are available through the Recording Secretary of the School Board and the Citizen Information Center. There are no additional costs to the district as a result of the implementation of this item.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent of Schools to enter into a Professional Development School agreement between South Hialeah Elementary School and Florida International University.

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