

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

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT TO ENTER INTO INSTRUCTIONAL AND CLINICAL INTERNSHIP AGREEMENTS WITH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE COLLEGES, UNIVERSITIES, AND COMMUNITY COLLEGES TO PROVIDE INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES TO PRE-SERVICE EDUCATION STUDENTS, STUDENT PHYSICAL AND OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS, AND STUDENT PHYSICAL AND OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST ASSISTANTS

COMMITTEE: LEGISLATIVE RELATIONS, PUBLIC RELATIONS AND PERSONNEL SERVICES

In response to the ongoing need for skilled teaching professionals, and in order to provide opportunities for high-quality internship opportunities to pre-service education students, Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS), in collaboration with Florida International University, Barry University, the University of Miami, Florida State University (Tallahassee), the University of Florida (Gainesville), Flagler College, Florida Memorial College, Nova Southeastern University, Trinity International College, Union Institute and University, and Carlos Albizu University, has developed formal Instructional Internship Agreements. These agreements are intended to support the development of pre-service teacher candidates by allowing for internship opportunities in M-DCPS facilities. Other colleges and universities may request to enter into such agreements during the school year and agreements will be developed and submitted for consideration and approval by the School Board.

Additionally, several post-secondary educational institutions in the South Florida area offer a number of health-related training programs, including programs to train physical and occupational therapists and physical and occupational therapist assistants. Requests have been received from Miami-Dade College, Keiser College (Fort Lauderdale), Florida International University, the University of Miami, Nova Southeastern University (Fort Lauderdale), the University of Florida (Gainesville), and Barry University to enter into cooperative agreements in order for student trainees at these institutions to receive their practicum experience in the M-DCPS physical and occupational therapy program. Other colleges and universities may make such requests during the school year and agreements will be developed and submitted for consideration and approval by the School Board.

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The Internship Agreements will:

1. formalize the placement of interns at M-DCPS facilities by establishing joint determination and assignment of interns in collaboration with the university, with final authority for approval of such assignments residing with the School Board;
2. produce competent teaching, physical and occupational therapy professionals who have been provided high-quality opportunities to observe and engage in authentic teaching experiences;
3. define criteria for identification of individuals eligible to supervise interns;
4. establish a process for addressing an intern's failure to meet professional or other requirements, as well as threats to pupil safety;
5. require interns and university representatives to attend orientations at which School Board rules and regulations, as well as the Florida Department of Education's Code of Ethics and Principles of Professional Conduct, will be discussed;
6. require that all interns be fingerprinted in accordance with Florida law, and the results be made known to the School Board prior to the placement of interns at M-DCPS school sites;
7. require that the universities provide certificates of accident/medical insurance to the School Board, acknowledging that interns and the universities assume personal responsibility for the intern's medical care and hospitalization;
8. require the universities to provide a certificate of insurance for Professional Liability, with limits no less than \$1,000,000 per occurrence resulting from actions of the university, university staff, or interns;
9. establish that the School Board will be held harmless, indemnified, and defended from any and all claims, liabilities, and causes of action arising out of negligence, error, omission, or intentional acts of the universities, university agents, officers and employees, or interns, and that all claims and losses of any nature whatsoever, including litigation costs and attorneys' fees which result from such negligence, shall be paid by the universities;
10. provide for termination of the Agreement no later than sixty (60) days prior to the expiration date of the Agreement; and
11. allow the Superintendent of Schools to renew the Agreement annually.

Authorization is therefore requested to enter into Instructional Internship Agreements with Florida International University, Barry University, the University of Miami, Florida State University (Tallahassee), the University of Florida (Gainesville), Flagler College, Florida Memorial College, Nova Southeastern University, Trinity International College, Union Institute and University, and Carlos Albizu University. Authorization is also requested to enter into Clinical Internship Agreements with Miami-Dade College, Keiser College (Fort Lauderdale), Florida International University, the University of Miami, Nova Southeastern University (Fort Lauderdale), the University of Florida (Gainesville), and Barry University. These internship agreements will be in effect from November 20, 2003 through June 30, 2004, and may be renewed annually thereafter, upon the approval of the Superintendent of Schools or designee.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida:

1. authorize the Superintendent to enter into Instructional Internship Agreements with Florida International University, Barry University, the University of Miami, Florida State University (Tallahassee), the University of Florida (Gainesville), Flagler College, Florida Memorial College, Nova Southeastern University, Trinity International College, Union Institute and University, and Carlos Albizu University to provide student internships at M-DCPS school sites from November 20, 2003 through June 30, 2004;
2. authorize the Superintendent to enter into Clinical Internship Agreements with Miami-Dade College, Keiser College (Fort Lauderdale), Florida International University, the University of Miami, Nova Southeastern University (Fort Lauderdale), the University of Florida (Gainesville), and Barry University to provide student internships at M-DCPS school sites from November 20, 2003 through June 30, 2004; and
3. authorize the annual renewal of Instructional Internship Agreements and Clinical Internship Agreements upon the approval of the Superintendent of Schools or designee.

There is no cost to the district for this item.

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