

Mercedes Toural, Chief Education Officer  
and Deputy Superintendent of Schools

**SUBJECT:       REQUEST SCHOOL BOARD APPROVAL OF THE FIRST  
                  AMENDMENT TO THE CHARTER SCHOOL RENEWAL CONTRACT  
                  WITH MATER ACADEMY, INC., ON BEHALF OF MATER ACADEMY**

**COMMITTEE:    EDUCATION AND SCHOOL OPERATIONS**

As per Section 1002.33(7)(c), Florida Statutes, a charter school contractual agreement may be modified during its initial term or any renewal term upon the recommendation of the sponsor and the approval of both parties to the agreement.

The original charter school contractual agreement with Mater Academy, Inc., was approved by The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, on May 12, 1998, for a term of three years commencing with the 1998-1999 school year, and subsequently amended on June 22, 1999, to extend the term for an additional two years through 2002-2003 school year. On March 13, 2003, the School Board approved the renewal of the charter school contractual agreement for a term of 15 years with a maximum student enrollment of 1,200 students in grades kindergarten through eight.

Mater Academy is located at 7700 NW 98 Street, Hialeah Gardens, Florida 33016, and currently serves approximately 735 students in grades kindergarten through five.

Mater Academy, Inc., established a separate school, Mater Academy Charter Middle School, which opened in the 2003-2004 school year, to serve the middle school students of Mater Academy. Since both schools entered into an articulation agreement, Mater Academy, Inc., has requested a first amendment which would allow the school to reduce the grade levels from kindergarten through eight to kindergarten through five for the remainder of the 2003-2004 school year and throughout the term of the contract which ends on June 30, 2018.

The Charter School Contract Review Committee met on November 7, 2003, and by a unanimous vote made a recommendation for approval of the first amendment to the charter school renewal contract.

**RECOMMENDED:**   That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve the first amendment to the charter school renewal contract with Mater Academy, Inc., on behalf of Mater Academy, to reduce the grade levels from kindergarten through eight to kindergarten through five for the remainder of the 2003-2004 school year and throughout the term of the contract which ends on June 30, 2018.

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