

Mercedes Toural, Chief Education Officer
and Deputy Superintendent of Schools

**SUBJECT: REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT TO
ENTER INTO CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENTS WITH THE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, CHILDREN'S MEDICAL SERVICES
EARLY STEPS, AND FOUR COMMUNITY AGENCIES TO
OPERATE PROGRAMS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES,
BIRTH THROUGH AGE TWO**

COMMITTEE: EDUCATION AND SCHOOL OPERATIONS

Authorization is requested for the Superintendent to enter into contractual agreements with the Department of Health, Children's Medical Services (CMS) Early Steps, and four community agencies to operate programs for students with disabilities, birth through age two. These contractual agreements have been in effect since 1988. The four community agencies participating in this program are listed below:

- Association for Retarded Citizens of South Florida, Inc. (ARC)
- Easter Seals Miami-Dade, Inc. (ES)
- University of Miami, Debbie Institute
- United Cerebral Palsy Association of Miami, Inc. (UCP)

The program delivery models designed to meet the diverse needs of this population include center-based services, home-based services, or a combination of the two. Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) funding for each agency varies, based on program delivery models.

Funding for these contracts will be provided, at least in part, by FTE generated from the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP). Total payments, based on students' Family Support Plans (FSPs) and on their current matrix funding levels, to ARC, ES, Debbie Institute, and UCP will not exceed \$3,921,116, effective August 16, 2004 through June 1, 2005.

It is requested that the number of students served through these agreements remain at a maximum of 448 students for the 2004-2005 school year. The agreement with each agency will be developed in cooperation with M-DCPS and Early Steps.

M-DCPS funding for all four contractual agreements is outlined below:

- Association for Retarded Citizens of South Florida, Inc., (ARC) will serve a maximum of 122 students, in an amount not to exceed \$1,313,623;
- Easter Seals Miami-Dade, Inc., (ES) will serve a maximum of 131 students, in an amount not to exceed \$1,053,497;
- University of Miami, Debbie Institute, will serve a maximum of 92 students, in an amount not to exceed \$753,624; and
- United Cerebral Palsy Association of Miami, Inc., (UCP) will serve a maximum of 103 students, in an amount not to exceed \$800,372.

In addition to the M-DCPS funding, Early Steps will contribute Part C funding via rate agreements allocated to each agency based upon the needs of students served. Part C funding may be used for a range of services including, but not limited to, nursing, therapy, home visits, social work service, family training, transportation, and assistance with the identification and placement of eligible students.

Agencies will be responsible for the day-to-day operation of programs, facilities, staff assistance with the identification and placement of students, staff development training, and administrative support. In addition to providing the FTE, M-DCPS will provide assistance with identification and placement of eligible students and monitoring to ensure compliance with applicable requirements.

The Executive Director of Association for Retarded Citizens of South Florida, Inc., is Ms. Vickie Burley; the President of Easter Seals Miami-Dade, Inc., is Dr. Joan Bornstein; the Director of University of Miami, Debbie Institute, is Ms. Kathleen Vergara; and the Executive Director of United Cerebral Palsy Association of Miami, Inc., is Dr. Debbie Terenzio.

The appropriation for this item will be included in the General Fund of the 2004-2005 Tentative Budget to be recommended for adoption in July 2004 under Fund 0100, Function 5217, Program 6840, Object 5310, Location 9731.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to enter into contractual agreements with the Department of Health, Children's Medical Services Early Steps, and four community agencies to operate programs for students with disabilities, birth through age two, in an amount not to exceed \$3,921,116, effective August 16, 2004 through June 1, 2005, as follows:

1. Association for Retarded Citizens of South Florida, Inc., will serve a maximum of 122 students, in an amount not to exceed \$1,313,623;
2. Easter Seals Miami-Dade, Inc., will serve a maximum of 131 students, in an amount not to exceed \$1,053,497;
3. University of Miami, Debbie Institute, will serve a maximum of 92 students, in an amount not to exceed \$753,624; and
4. United Cerebral Palsy Association of Miami, Inc., will serve a maximum of 103 students, in an amount not to exceed \$800,372.

The appropriation for this item will be included in the General Fund of the 2004-2005 Tentative Budget to be recommended for adoption in July 2004.

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