

Mercedes Toural, Chief Education Officer
and Deputy Superintendent of Schools

**SUBJECT: REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT TO
ENTER INTO A CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT WITH THE
FLORIDA UNIT OF THE RECORDING FOR THE BLIND AND
DYSLEXIC (RFB&D) TO PROVIDE ANNUAL MEMBERSHIPS,
CONDUCT OUTREACH ACTIVITIES, PROVIDE LIBRARY
SERVICES, AND PRODUCE REQUIRED AUDIO TAPE PRODUCTS**

COMMITTEE: EDUCATION AND SCHOOL OPERATIONS

Authorization is requested for the Superintendent to enter into a contractual agreement with the Florida Unit of the Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic (RFB&D) to provide annual institutional and individual student memberships, to conduct outreach activities, to provide library services, and to produce required audio tape products for use by schools and individual students, in an amount not to exceed \$177,300, effective July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005. Training is provided by RFB&D outreach personnel to teachers, school personnel, parents, and students on the use of audio materials for students with disabilities. This contractual agreement has been in effect since 1994.

Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic is a part of a national nonprofit organization which provides recorded textbooks, library services, and other educational resources to individuals who cannot read standard print because of a visual, physical, or perceptual disability. Located in Miami, it is the only unit of RFB&D in the state of Florida. An evaluation of RFB&D was completed by the Office of Evaluation and Research in January 2001, and the program was found to be effective in improving reading performance. It was recommended that the program should be continued.

The Professional Services Contract Committee established by School Board Rule 6Gx13-3F-1.021 reviewed this Board item on April 27, 2004, and recommended that an exception to the rule regarding bids or Request for Proposals be granted as the contractor is the sole source provider.

The Executive Director for the Florida Unit of the Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic is Ms. Christine McCarthy.

B-9

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:

1. authorize the Superintendent to enter into a contractual agreement with the Florida Unit of the Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic (RFB&D) to provide annual institutional memberships, individual student memberships, conduct outreach activities, provide library services, and produce required audio tape products, in an amount not to exceed \$177,300, effective July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005; and
2. grant an exception to Board Rule 6Gx13- 3F-1.021.

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.

RKF/BB:cb