

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

SUBJECT: AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT WITH SKILLSOFT CORPORATION TO OFFER DISTANCE LEARNING COURSES FOR MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS ADMINISTRATORS AND TO REVIEW AND RENEW THE CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT FOR UP TO TWO ADDITIONAL YEARS

COMMITTEE: LEGISLATIVE RELATIONS, PUBLIC RELATIONS, AND PERSONNEL SERVICES

Authorization is requested to enter into a contractual agreement with SkillSoft Corporation to offer distance learning courses to Miami-Dade County Public Schools' (M-DCPS) administrators. SkillSoft Corporation courses feature content pertinent to concepts leading to performance excellence through effective leadership and efficient management practices.

SkillSoft Corporation courses have been available to Miami-Dade County Public Schools' administrators since September, 2000 through the South Florida Annenberg Challenge Professional Development Initiative (PDI) Partnership. At the School Board Meeting of December 12th, 2001, (Agenda Item E-3), approval was given to enter into a contractual agreement with SkillSoft Corporation. An exception to School Board Rule 6Gx13-3F-1.021, Contract and Documents, was granted at that time as otherwise determined by the Committee. A contractual agreement with SkillSoft Corporation, for the provision of distance learning courses to administrators in Miami-Dade County Public Schools, Broward County Public Schools, and Palm Beach County Public Schools, as part of a tri-county collaboration, was also approved at the School Board Meeting on February 12th, 2003 through February 13th, 2004 (Agenda Item H-9).

In order to continue to provide these valuable staff development programs, authorization is requested to enter into a contractual agreement with SkillSoft Corporation for \$160,500 per year for 1,500 user slots, with the option to review and renew the contractual agreement annually for up to two additional years at an annual cost not to exceed \$160,500 per year. This cost represents a 62.46% discount off the regular corporate rate being provided by SkillSoft Corporation, and will provide full access to over 800 courses representing over 3,300 hours of interactive instruction. Additionally, users will have access to over 5,000 SkillBrief articles, as well as to a professional library of over 2,500 titles, allowing users to search unabridged content from over 100 publishers.

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Authorization is requested to enter into a contractual agreement with SkillSoft Corporation for a one-year period, from May 20th, 2004 through May 20th, 2005. Additionally, authorization is requested to allow for the review and renewal of the contractual agreement annually for up to two additional years at an annual cost not to exceed \$160,500.

The Professional Services Contract Committee established by School Board rule 6Gx13-3F-1.021 reviewed this item on May 4th, 2004, and has recommended that an exception to the rule be made as otherwise determined by the committee, on the basis of continuity of services, copyrighted materials, access to the entire SkillSoft Business Skills curriculum and all related resources, and a 62.46% discount off the regular corporate rate.

The appropriation for the contractual agreement is included in the 2003-2004 Title II, Part A, Teachers and Principals Training and Recruiting Fund grant budget under Fund 0420, Program 3346, Location 9017, Object 5310, Function 6400. Funding for subsequent contract renewals will be appropriated from the 2004-2005 and 2005-2006 Title II, Part A, Teachers and Principals Training and Recruiting Fund grant budgets.

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

1. authorize the Superintendent to enter into a contractual agreement with SkillSoft Corporation for \$160,500, from May 20, 2004 through May 20, 2005;
2. authorize the Superintendent to review and renew the contractual agreement annually for up to two additional years at an annual cost not to exceed \$160,500;
3. grant an exception to School Board Rule 6Gx13-3F-1.021, Professional Services Contracts.

The appropriation for this item is included in the 2003-2004 Title II, Part A, Teachers and Principals Training and Recruiting Fund grant budget. Funding for subsequent contract renewals will be appropriated from the 2004-2005 and 2005-2006 Title II, Part A, Teachers and Principals Training and Recruiting Fund grant budgets.

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