

Mercedes Toural, Chief Education Officer
and Deputy Superintendent of Schools

**SUBJECT: REQUEST SCHOOL BOARD AUTHORIZATION FOR THE
SUPERINTENDENT TO APPOINT THE MEMBERS OF THE
LEGISLATIVELY-MANDATED EVALUATION COMMITTEE
REQUIRED BY THE FLORIDA BUSINESS AND EDUCATION IN
SCHOOL TOGETHER (FLORIDA BEST) PROGRAM**

COMMITTEE: EDUCATION AND SCHOOL OPERATIONS

In 2003 the Florida Legislature approved Senate Bill 30-A, Florida Statute 1013.501, Florida Business and Education in School Together (Florida BEST) Program, in order to increase business partnerships in education, to reduce school and classroom overcrowding throughout the state, and to offset the high costs of educational facilities construction. This legislation intends to encourage and increase existing partnerships between businesses and public education.

This legislation requires local school boards to appoint a Florida BEST Evaluation Committee comprised of at least one district administrator, at least one member of the business community, and at least one member of a local chamber of commerce. This committee will evaluate the feasibility of proposals for satellite schools brought forth by area businesses. As the intent of the legislation closely parallels the procedures for establishing and operating Satellite Learning Centers in Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS), it is recommended that the School Board continue to endorse satellite learning centers and appoint the members of the legislatively-mandated Florida BEST Evaluation Committee.

This committee shall evaluate the feasibility of each satellite learning center proposal, including the reasonableness of operating cost, number of students to be served, proposed student-to-teacher ratio, proposed number of years the satellite learning center would operate, and any other operational or facilities considerations the School Board or committee deems appropriate. The committee shall also recommend to the School Board those proposals for satellite learning centers which the committee deems viable and worthy of being established.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to appoint the Florida BEST Evaluation Committee members comprised of at least one district administrator, at least one member of the business community, and at least one member of a local chamber of commerce to evaluate the feasibility of a proposal for satellite learning centers brought forth by area businesses.