

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

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION TO SUBMIT THE REVISED MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS ALTERNATIVE PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION PROGRAM TO THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOR REVIEW AND CONTINUATION OF APPROVAL

COMMITTEE: LEGISLATIVE RELATIONS, PUBLIC RELATIONS AND PERSONNEL SERVICES

Pursuant to Section 1012.56, Florida Statutes, school districts may develop and maintain an alternative certification program by which members of the district's instructional staff may satisfy the professional education course requirements specified in the rules of the State Board of Education for issuance of a professional certificate. The state board has adopted standards and guidelines for the approval of alternative certification programs. The Florida Department of Education must approve programs and systems developed to demonstrate professional preparation and education competence authorized by this statute.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) currently has an approved alternative professional preparation program that is consistent with all statutory requirements. However, in an effort to provide a more effective and efficient program for new teachers, specifically for non-education majors hired as teachers at M-DCPS secondary level school sites, revisions have been made to several program components. These revisions include:

1. clarification of requirements for program participation;
2. consolidation of procedures and program management functions; and
3. revisions to inservice training components, including the addition of follow-up activities and new component numbers as a result of changes to the component numbering system.

Authorization is requested to submit revisions to the M-DCPS Alternative Professional Preparation Program to the Florida Department of Education for review and continuation of approval.

The program continues to include methods for identifying each applicant's entry-level teaching competencies and requires each applicant to:

1. have expertise in the subject and meet requirements for specialization in a subject area for which a professional certificate may be issued;
2. possess, or have established eligibility for, a Temporary Educator Certificate from the Florida Department of Education, Bureau of Educator Certification;
3. undergo observations of her/his teaching performance, conducted by the school site principal or designee, utilizing the Professional Assessment and Comprehensive Evaluation System (PACES) instrument;
4. demonstrate in a consistent manner teaching behaviors that either meet or exceed the Florida Educator Accomplished Practices;
5. complete training in competency areas in which deficiencies are identified;
6. complete and submit an Alternative Professional Preparation Program portfolio documenting their performance, and consistent demonstration of the Florida Educator Accomplished Practices, throughout the duration of the program;
7. complete the program within the validity period of the Temporary Non-renewable Certificate; and
8. achieve passing scores on the professional education competency examination required by state board rule.

The cost of implementing the Alternative Professional Preparation Program during the 2004-2005 school year is estimated to be approximately \$250,000. Funding for this program is included in the 2004-2005 Title II, Part A, Teachers and Principals Training and Recruiting Fund grant budget. No additional local funds are needed to continue program implementation.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent of Schools to submit the revised M-DCPS Alternative Professional Preparation Program to the Florida Department of Education for review and continuation of program approval.

The appropriation for this item is included in the Title II, Part A, Teachers and Principals Training and Recruiting Fund 2004-2005 budget. No additional local funds are needed to continue program implementation.

MHA:ldc