

Dr. Rudolph F. Crew, Superintendent of Schools

**SUBJECT: CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT FOR CLASSROOM IMPACT,
A PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP, TO BE
PILOTED IN THE SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT ZONE**

COMMITTEE: EDUCATION AND SCHOOL OPERATIONS

The Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) has announced the allocation of grant funding, as well as resources and services, valued at \$3,175,000 to Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) for professional development. Led by M-DCPS, this initiative, entitled the Continuous Improvement for Classroom Impact, is a partnership between M-DCPS, FLDOE, and the University of Miami (U of M). It will implement the work designed and discussed earlier in September as part of the organizational item which created the Deputy Superintendent for Professional Development. This unprecedented effort was initiated by the Office of the K-12 Chancellor and will include grant funding, resources, and services to be provided by the Bureau of Educator Recruitment, Development and Retention and the Bureau of School Improvement.

Well-designed and implemented professional development for school leaders and teachers is an essential long-term investment in raising the academic achievement of our students. Using continuous improvement as the context, a professional development model will be designed to target teachers and school administrators in failing schools. The model, to be piloted in the School Improvement Zone, will be replicable and scaleable for districtwide and, ultimately, statewide implementation.

While more details will be developed, the Continuous Improvement for Classroom Impact initiative will include, but will not be limited to:

- √ Continuous Improvement Model training to ensure that data-driven curriculum, instruction and assessment are part of daily practice;
- √ piloting of innovative tools and strategies to develop strong instructional leaders;
- √ a cadre of retired administrators to mentor and coach early career principals;
- √ implementation of a Coaching Academy to expand and strengthen school-based coaching and support for teachers;
- √ development of a menu of "just-in-time" resources to support instruction in the core academic content areas (reading, mathematics, science and the arts); and

- √ establishment of Professional Development Schools with demonstration classrooms to create a hub of action research and modeling of research-based best practices.

U of M will provide assistance with the implementation and evaluation of this professional development model. For example, U of M will serve as the convener of a consortium of local colleges/universities that will provide strategic direction and aide in evaluation.

M-DCPS will ensure that our resources, curriculum, and scheduling are aligned to integrate the professional development model into our system.

It is anticipated that the following funding sources will be targeted to support this initiative:

Funding Authority	Program Title	Amount
Title II, Part A, Federal-through-State Discretionary	Professional Development	1,250,000
Title I, School Improvement Title V, Part A	Reading Coaches Math Coaches	1,235,000
Title I, School Improvement Title V, Part A Specific Appropriation #9	Assistance Plus	300,000
Title V, Part A	Mentor Principals Assistance Plus	100,000
TOTAL		\$2,885,000

In addition, resources and services valued at \$290,000 have also been committed by the FLDOE. In total, the anticipated funding, resources, and services to be allocated by the FLDOE in support of the Continuous Improvement for Classroom Impact initiative will equate to \$3,175,000 beginning October, 2004.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade, Florida authorize the Superintendent to enter a partnership with U of M and FLDOE to develop and implement the Continuous Improvement for Classroom Impact initiative to be piloted in the School Improvement Zone.