

Sonia E. Díaz, Ed.D., Deputy Superintendent
Curriculum and Instruction

SUBJECT: REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO AMEND THE COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH DELL TO PROVIDE THE DELL TECHKNOW PROGRAM AT ELEVEN MIDDLE SCHOOLS AND ALLOW MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR THE COST OF HOURLY TEACHER SALARIES AT AN ESTIMATED COST OF \$60,000

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

At the Board meeting of August 18, 2004, the School Board approved Agenda Item E-121, authorizing the Superintendent to enter into a cooperative agreement with Dell, which allowed six middle schools in the District to participate in the Dell TechKnow program. The Dell TechKnow program is a teacher-led, after-school, hands-on course in which students work in teams to learn basics of computer hardware assembly and troubleshooting. Participating students who successfully complete the after-school program earn a refurbished Dell desktop computer to take home, complete with operating system, software, and one year of free Internet access.

As part of the cooperative agreement, Dell agreed to provide refurbished computers, curriculum, and implementation assistance. In order to take advantage of the cooperative agreement, Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) agreed to provide funding for the hourly salary of teachers facilitating the Dell TechKnow after-school program.

The August 2004 agreement with Dell limited the District to 200 student participants over a two-year period. The estimated cost of hourly salaries for teachers supporting the 200 students after school, as indicated in Agenda Item E-121, on August 18, 2004, was \$7,500 per year. Six schools were selected to participate through an application process. The participating schools are: Allapattah, Miami Edison, Madison, Miami Springs, Redland, and Thomas Jefferson Middle Schools. Seventy students at the participating schools have completed the program during the first round of the initiative.

Dell has offered to expand the initiative to include an additional 600 students at five additional schools, bringing the total student population served by Dell TechKnow to 800 students. Additional teachers will be needed to assist these 600 students bringing the estimated cost of hourly teacher salaries to approximately \$60,000 for the two-year period. School Improvement Zone and STELLAR middle schools have been invited to participate in the expansion. The new schools indicating a desire to participate are: Brownsville, Centennial, Horace Mann, Norland, and Parkway Middle Schools. The original six schools have also indicated a willingness to continue the program.

The funding structure has changed since the approval of Agenda Item E-121, on August 18, 2004. Due to the success of the Dell TechKnow program and the proposed expansion, funding for the Dell TechKnow program was included in the *Enhancing Education Through Technology* (EETT) proposal. The EETT funding was awarded to the District on December 22, 2004.

The appropriation for this item is included in the Other Federal Programs Fund (Contracted Programs Fund) of the 2004-2005 Adopted Budget under Fund 0420, Function 6400, Program 3198, Object 5150, Location 9629.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to:

1. amend the cooperative agreement with Dell to provide the Dell TechKnow program at eleven middle schools; and
2. allow Miami-Dade County Public Schools to provide funding for the cost of hourly teacher salaries at an estimated cost of \$60,000.

The appropriation for this item is included in the Other Federal Programs Fund (Contracted Programs Fund) of the 2004-2005 Adopted Budget.

SED/SJD:jc