

Rudolph F. Crew, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools
Curriculum and Instruction

SUBJECT: REQUEST SCHOOL BOARD AUTHORIZATION OF A COLLABORATIVE INITIATIVE BETWEEN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS (M-DCPS) AND THE COLLEGE BOARD TO PROVIDE A PSAT PREP COURSE: A M-DCPS AND COLLEGE BOARD INITIATIVE FOR RISING GRADE NINE STUDENTS FOR THE 2005 SUMMER

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

As part of the Superintendent's vision to transform secondary education, the Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) and the College Board are collaborating in a unique national endeavor to provide a transitional course for rising ninth grade students. *A PSAT Prep Course: A M-DCPS and College Board Initiative* will be part of the 2005 summer curriculum and is designed to provide students, particularly minority and underrepresented students, with a rich and rigorous academic experience that gives them the knowledge and skills they need to prepare for success in college and careers.

A PSAT Prep Course: A M-DCPS and College Board Initiative, an intensive course derived from the College Board PSAT/NMSQT and part of the Superintendent's secondary school reform, aims to combine skills of mathematics, reading, and writing with exploration of and planning for careers. Developing and presenting a portfolio, a necessary component and course requirement, will prompt students and their teachers to consider what it means to appreciate quality and to exhibit best work as a culminating process of this collegial experience. The initiative, a concrete, day-by-day, scripted curricular experience, promotes academic rigor, heightens student academic performance, and prepares students for assessments.

This ambitious voluntary initiative is designed to serve 1000 rising ninth grade students during the 20-day summer session at 30 senior high schools with a maximum class size of 30 students. Three days of professional development will prepare 30 teachers for a new professional outlook, one that involves a significant dialogue, an interactive experience, and concentrated mentoring of students who have the desire to excel.

At the end of the intensive summer module, the College Board will work with the District to collect and analyze data on the program including direct feedback from students, parents, and teachers.

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The estimated cost for the *A PSAT Prep Course: A M-DCPS and College Board Initiative* is \$275,000.00; that includes \$90,000.00 for a minimum of 1000 students inclusive of the PSAT/NMSQT administration on October 12, 2005, and a minimum of 30 teachers inclusive of three days of professional development.

Copies of *A PSAT Prep Course: A M-DCPS and College Board Initiative* will be transmitted to School Board Members under separate cover and are available for inspection by the public in the Office of the Board Recording Secretary, Room 924, and the Citizen Information Center, Room 158, 1450 NE Second Avenue, Miami, Florida 33132.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to enter into a collaborative effort to create *A PSAT Prep Course: A M-DCPS and College Board Initiative* for rising ninth grade students for the 2005 summer.

The appropriation for this item is included in the 2005 *Passport to Summer Explorations*.