

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

**SUBJECT: REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT TO
ENTER INTO A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH SPECIAL
OLYMPICS, FLORIDA, INC., FOR THE CONTINUATION OF A
COLLABORATIVE PROGRAM TO PROVIDE SPORTS AND FITNESS
TRAINING AND SPORTS COMPETITION OPPORTUNITIES FOR
MENTALLY HANDICAPPED STUDENTS, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2005
THROUGH JUNE 30, 2006**

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Authorization is requested for the Superintendent to enter into a cooperative agreement with Special Olympics, Florida, Inc. (SOF), for the continuation of a collaborative program which will provide sports and fitness training and sports competition opportunities for mentally handicapped students, effective July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006. This cooperative agreement has been in effect since 1991.

Special Olympics is an international organization that offers year-round sports training and competitive activities for mentally handicapped children and adults and develops opportunities for mentally handicapped persons to participate in school and community recreation programs. Through collaborative endeavors between Special Olympics and school districts, mentally handicapped students participate in sports and fitness training and competition events which test their newly acquired skills.

Special Olympics Florida will provide two full-time staff members to coordinate the implementation of the program. Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) will provide transportation to Special Olympics activities, physical examinations for students through the M-DCPS Sports Medicine Program, one staff liaison, one secretarial position, substitute coverage for teachers attending events, and use of equipment and duplicating services to disseminate program-related materials.

The Executive Director of Special Olympics Florida, Inc., is Mr. Charles M. Castevens.

There is no exchange of funds.

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

1. enter into a cooperative agreement with Special Olympics Florida, Inc., for the continuation of a collaborative program to provide sports and fitness training and sports competition opportunities for mentally handicapped students, effective July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006; and
2. extend this cooperative agreement annually for a maximum of two additional one-year periods.

There is no exchange of funds.