

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

SUBJECT: REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT TO ENTER INTO A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH EARLY STEPS (FORMERLY EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAMS), PART C, TO PROVIDE SERVICES TO CHILDREN AGES BIRTH TO THREE, 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 Early Steps (formerly Early Intervention Programs), Part C, to provide services to children ages birth to three (3), effective July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006. This cooperative agreement has been in effect since 1994.

Early Steps is the result of the enactment of an amendment to the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) of 1986. This amendment differs from its companion amendment, Part B, in that Part B does not mandate services to children below the age of three (3). Part C, however, entitles children from the ages of birth to three (3) to services, if it is determined that these children have a developmental delay or an established condition that has a high probability of resulting in a disability or delay. This cooperative agreement between Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) and Early Steps, Part C, is proposed to meet the state level agreement of the Part C Implementation Plan.

Under this agreement, M-DCPS will provide procedures for referrals, evaluation of children above 36 months of age, participation in the development of Individualized Family Support Plans (IFSP), and transition into prekindergarten programs of students approaching their third birthday. Early Steps will be responsible for service coordination, multidisciplinary team evaluations of students below the age of three (3), and providing services identified on the IFSP.

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 Early Steps (formerly Early Intervention Programs), Part C, to provide services to children ages birth to three (3), effective July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006; and
2. extend the cooperative agreements for a maximum of two additional one-year periods.

There is no exchange of funds.

RFK/BB:amr