

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

**SUBJECT: REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT TO
ENTER INTO A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH PARENT
TO PARENT OF MIAMI, INC., TO PROVIDE PARENTS OF
CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES INFORMATION AND TRAINING,
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 Parent to Parent of Miami, Inc., to provide parents of children with disabilities information and training to help improve aptitude and achievement of their children. Parent to Parent of Miami, Inc., in conjunction with Miami-Dade County Public Schools' (M-DCPS) staff, will assist parents in understanding the nature of their children's disabilities and educational and developmental needs. This cooperative agreement has been in effect since 2002.

Through the proposed cooperative agreement, Parent to Parent of Miami, Inc., and M-DCPS staff will provide training and information to assist parents in understanding how to use the procedural safeguards effectively under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). It is necessary for parents to participate in the decision-making process of their child's Individual Educational Plan (IEP) and fully understand the range of options and services available. M-DCPS will provide six (6) parent liaisons and one (1) part-time clerical staff member, federally funded through IDEA, to collaborate, train, provide support services, translate, and disseminate information to parents of children with disabilities. This cooperative endeavor will also provide information regarding alternative methods for dispute resolution (e.g., the mediation process described in IDEA).

The Executive Director of Parent to Parent of Miami, Inc., is Ms. Isabel C. Garcia.

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 Parent to Parent of Miami, Inc., to provide parents of children with disabilities information and training, 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.

RKF/BB:af