

Dr. Irving Hamer, Deputy Superintendent
School Improvement

SUBJECT: REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO A MULTI-YEAR PARTNERSHIP WITH RANSOM EVERGLADES SUMMERBRIDGE PROGRAM TO PROVIDE SERVICES TO MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS IN OVERTOWN AND LIBERTY CITY

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Since 1992, Summerbridge Miami and its sponsor, Ransom Everglades School, have provided academic advancement and enrichment opportunities to 1,955 students who have remained in and graduated from Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS). Summerbridge Miami is part of Breakthrough National, a collaborative of 25 programs in the United States and Hong Kong, whose mission it is to create pathways to college for under-achieving middle school students beginning in the 6th through 12th grade, and to inspire young adults to pursue careers in education.

Summerbridge Miami is a six-year tuition-free program that provides a summer institute and year round advocacy and tutoring model. Recently, Summerbridge Miami received a 21st Century Community Learning Center Grant that will allow it to expand its program. Two hundred middle school students from the Overtown and Liberty City communities will be served annually during the summer institute, and 250 students will be served during the school year program. The summer institute consists of a six-week session with four academic classes and two non-academic electives. The teachers, who have a 1:6 teacher-to-student ratio, are talented high school and college students trained and supervised by "Master Teachers." The school year program features 18 "Super Saturdays" that model the summer institute and 28 hours of weekly tutoring at eight M-DCPS schools. The curriculum for Summerbridge Miami includes classes in mathematics, reading/writing, natural sciences, foreign languages, and mini-courses in music/art, computer skills, and study skills.

For the 2005 summer institute and 2005-2006 program, Summerbridge Miami will expend \$512,013. M-DCPS will provide appropriate space during the summer institute at Horace Mann Middle School and Booker T. Washington Senior High School, as well as transportation services for participating students.

Summerbridge Miami is an important supplement to the School Improvement Zone (Zone). Its focus on middle school students over a six-year period has yielded significant outcomes in the past and promises to do so in the future. A multi-year partnership with Summerbridge Miami will benefit students in the Zone and assist M-DCPS achieve its strategic goal of eliminating low performance while advancing high achievement.

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

1. enter into a multi-year partnership with Summerbridge Miami, beginning with the summer institute of 2005;
2. accept \$512,013 in goods and services to benefit middle school students residing in Overtown and Liberty City who are attending M-DCPS schools in those communities; and
3. support Summerbridge Miami by providing appropriate space during the summer institute at Horace Mann Middle School and Booker T. Washington Senior High School, as well as transportation for participating students.

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