

May 4, 2005

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

**SUBJECT: REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT WITH FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY, DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION SCIENCES AND DISORDERS, TO PROVIDE SPECIALIZED SPEECH AND LANGUAGE SERVICES FOR SPEECH AND LANGUAGE-IMPAIRED STUDENTS, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$293,000, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2005, THROUGH JUNE 30, 2006**

**COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Authorization is requested to enter into a contractual agreement with Florida International University (FIU), Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders, to provide specialized speech and language services for speech and language-impaired students, in an amount not to exceed \$293,000, effective July 1, 2005, through June 30, 2006. The Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders has specific expertise in providing speech, language, or hearing screenings; evaluations; and therapeutic and consultative services to prekindergarten, elementary, and secondary level students.

Florida International University, Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders, is the only master's speech-language pathology program in the nation that prepares its students to work with bilingual populations, focusing on speakers of Spanish, Haitian Creole, and English. FIU will provide advanced master's speech-language pathology students and certified speech-language pathology faculty members who will supervise them. The Department's clinical coordinator will supervise all clinical program activities and monitor equipment and equipment maintenance needs. FIU will provide diagnostic and therapy materials and Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) will provide calibrated audiometers.

The Committee established by School Board Rule 6Gx13-3F-1.021 reviewed this item on April 28, 2005, and recommended that an exception to the rule regarding bids or Request for Proposals be granted as FIU has specific expertise to fulfill this critical need.

The Coordinator of Clinical Education of the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders is Dr. Jean Mead.

Copies of the contractual agreement will be transmitted to School Board Members under separate cover and are available for inspection by the public in the Office of the Recording Secretary, Room 924, and the Citizen Information Center, Room 158, 1450 NE Second Avenue, Miami, Florida 33132.

The appropriation for this item will be included in the Other Federal Programs Fund of (Contracted Programs Fund) under Fund 0420, Function 5200, Program 3635, Object 5310, Location 9615.

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

1. enter into a contractual agreement with Florida International University, Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders, to provide specialized speech and language services for speech and language-impaired students, in an amount not to exceed \$293,000, effective July 1, 2005, through June 30, 2006.
2. grant an exception to School Board Rule 6Gx13-3F-1.021.

The appropriation for this item will be included in the Other Federal Programs Fund (Contracted Programs Fund).

RFK/BB:ddm