

Office of Professional Development
Ava G. Byrne, Deputy Superintendent

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION TO SUBMIT THE REVISED MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS ALTERNATIVE PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION PROGRAM TO THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOR REVIEW AND CONTINUATION OF APPROVAL

COMMITTEE: SCHOOL SUPPORT ACCOUNTABILITY

In accordance with Florida Statutes section 1012.56(7), school districts are authorized to develop and maintain an alternative certification program to allow instructional staff members to satisfy professional education course requirements for issuance of a professional certificate as specified by State Board of Education rules. The state board has adopted standards and guidelines for the approval of alternative certification programs. The Florida Department of Education evaluates and approves statutorily authorized programs and systems developed to demonstrate professional preparation and education competence.

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, originally authorized submission of the Alternative Professional Preparation Program to the Florida Department of Education at the Board Meeting of August 22, 2001 (Agenda Item E-3). Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) currently has an approved alternative professional preparation program that meets statutory requirements. However, the Florida Department of Education has required that approved programs be revised to include coverage of Competency 2 for the Reading Endorsement. In response to the Department's request and in an effort to provide a more effective and efficient program for non-education majors hired as teachers at M-DCPS school sites, the district's Alternative Professional Preparation Program (AP3) has been revised as follows:

1. addition of the required reading endorsement course, to be offered online through the Florida Online Reading Professional Development (FOR-PD) program; and
2. enhancements to school-site support and additional mentoring services provided to AP3 participants by National Board Certified Teachers; and

Authorization is requested to submit the proposed revisions to the Florida Department of Education for their review and continued approval.

D-1

Copies of the revised Miami-Dade County Public Schools' Alternative Professional Preparation Program will be transmitted to the School Board Members under separate cover and are available for inspection by the public in the Office of Board Recording Secretary, Room 924, and the Citizen Information Center, Room 158, 1450 NE Second Avenue, Miami, Florida, 33132.

The estimated cost to implement the Alternative Professional Preparation Program during the 2005-2006 school year is approximately \$250,000. Funding for this program will be included in the 2005-2006 Title II, Part A, Teachers and Principals Training and Recruiting Fund grant budget. No additional local funds will be required to continue program implementation.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent of Schools to submit the revised M-DCPS Alternative Professional Preparation Program to the Florida Department of Education for review and continuation of program approval.

The appropriation for this item will be included in the Title II, Part A, Teachers and Principals Training and Recruiting Fund 2005-2006 grant budget. No additional local funds will be required to continue program implementation.

AGB:gpq