

Rudolph F. Crew, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT A GRANT AWARD FROM THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (USDOE) FOR FUNDING UNDER THE SMALLER LEARNING COMMUNITIES PROGRAM AND ENTER INTO SEPARATE ANNUAL CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENTS WITH THE NATIONAL ACADEMY FOUNDATION; AMERICA'S CHOICE®; THE MIAMI MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND PLANETARIUM; AND THE UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI FOR A PERIOD OF FIVE YEARS EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1, 2005, THROUGH JUNE 30, 2010

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The United States Department of Education (USDOE) issued a Request for Proposals under the Smaller Learning Communities Program (SLC) for the purpose of providing federal financial assistance to encourage large high schools to undertake the planning, implementation, and expansion of smaller learning communities through research-based restructuring. Such strategies include establishing small learning clusters and career academies with emphasis on the implementation of grade nine transition activities, adult advocate/advisory systems, and high academic standards for all students.

Authorization is requested to accept a grant award from the USDOE in the amount of \$11,000,000 to fund the Smaller Learning Communities Program for the grant period of September 1, 2005, through June 30, 2010.

The following schools were targeted for this program because they met all federal requirements, including documented need for assistance relative to student performance, diversity/achievement gaps, graduation rates, school safety concerns, and successful transition to post-high school training and/or careers. The ten senior high schools identified in the SLC grant are:

- Barbara Goleman Senior High School
- Felix Varela Senior High School
- Hialeah Senior High School
- Homestead Senior High School
- Miami Central Senior High School
- Miami Coral Park Senior High School
- Miami Senior High School
- Miami Southridge Senior High School
- Miami Springs Senior High School
- Miami Sunset Senior High School

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Successful transformation of the ten schools will be highly dependent on a total commitment, both internally (teachers, administrators, parents, and students) and externally (district, state, community), to the implementation of accelerated learning strategies and interventions that will help *all* students succeed in rigorous academic coursework.

Therefore, Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) will partner with the National Academy Foundation (NAF) and America's Choice®, whose research-based, career academy frameworks and Ramp-Up to Literacy Programs (respectively) have proven track records, both locally and at the national level, in developing successful academy programs. M-DCPS will also partner with the Miami Museum of Science and Planetarium, whose technologically innovative curriculum and project-based activities have been used successfully in the District to improve student academic achievement. As a condition of the SLC grant award, the NAF Center for School Design will identify and orient District and school-site teams and help the teams focus on the core areas of academy development articulated in the NAF Frameworks; America's Choice® will develop the grade nine Transition Model and provide technical assistance and professional development training to the District and school teams; and the Miami Museum of Science and Planetarium will develop an academy-themed curriculum and activities (i.e., biomedical and forensic science, digital entertainment and programming, videoconferencing).

As stipulated in the grant application and proposal, an evaluation must be conducted by an independent third party whose role in the project is limited to conducting the evaluation. As a condition of the SLC grant award, the University of Miami, School of Education, will provide an annual evaluation report for each of the five years of the project period of implementation.

Authorization is requested to enter into contractual agreements with the National Academy Foundation in the amount of \$100,000 annually for a period of five years; America's Choice® in the amount of \$25,000 annually for a period of five years; the Miami Museum of Science and Planetarium in the amount of \$25,000 for a period of one year; and the University of Miami in the amount of \$60,000 annually for a period of five years. The appropriation for this item is included in the Other Federal Programs Fund of the 2005-2006 Adopted Budget under Fund 0420, Function 6300, Program TBA, Object 5310, Location 9610. There is no cost to the District. The grant will be managed by Specialized Programs – Schools of Choice.

Official notification of this grant award was received on July 12, 2005. Reimbursement of grant-related expenditures is authorized effective September 1, 2005.

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

1. accept a grant award from the United States Department of Education (USDOE) for funding under the Smaller Learning Communities Program in the amount of \$11,000,000, for the grant period of September 1, 2005, through June 30, 2010;
2. enter into separate contractual agreements, not to exceed the amount of \$950,000, for the grant period of September 1, 2005, through June 30, 2010, with:
 - a. National Academy Foundation in the amount of \$100,000 annually for a period of five years;
 - b. America's Choice® in the amount of \$25,000 annually for a period of five years;
 - c. Miami Museum of Science and Planetarium in the amount of \$25,000 for a period of one year; and
 - d. University of Miami in the amount of \$60,000 annually for a period of five years;
3. extend this grant as authorized through official notification from the granting agency in order to complete the goals of the programs; and
4. direct Financial Operations to establish appropriations in the amounts approved or as amended by the granting agency; such appropriations to be reported periodically to the Board.

AMC:mgl

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

BUDGET SUMMARY FORM



- Yes
- No
- Entitlement Grant
- Non-Entitlement/Contract

Are there any in-kind or matching funds required?

GRANT/PROGRAM NAME: Smaller Learning Communities

Grant Period Beginning July 1, 2005 Ending June 30, 2010 (Date)

FUNCTION	Total Budget	Salaries (51XX)	Employee Benefits (52XX)	Purchased Services (53XX)	Energy Services (54XX)	Materials and Supplies (55XX)	Capital Outlay (56XX)	Other Expense (57XX)
INSTRUCTION SERVICES	5000	9,493,887.00				5,493,887.00		4,000,000.00
SUPPORT SERVICES:								
Pupil Personnel Services	6100	503,625.00	103,625.00					
Instructional Media Services	6200							
Instruction & Curriculum Development	6300							
Instructional Staff Training	6400			550,000.00				
Board of Education	7100							
General Administration	7200	452,488.00*						452,488.00*
School Administration	7300							
Facilities Acquisitions & Construction	7400							
Fiscal Services	7500							
Food Services	7600							
Central Services	7700							
Transportation Services	7800							
Operation of Plant	7900							
Maintenance of Plant	8100							
Community Services	9100							
Debt	9200							
TOTAL INSTRUCTION AND SUPPORT SERVICES		11,000,000.00	400,000.00	103,625.00	550,000.00	5,493,887.00		4,452,488.00

*Includes Federal Indirect Costs of 452,488

Reviewed By *[Signature]*
Division of Budget

Submitted for Board Approval/Authorization:

Agenda Item A-6 Board Meeting of August 17, 2005
(Number) (Date)