

October 5, 2005

Alberto M. Carvalho, Associate Superintendent
Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, Grants Administration, and Community Services

SUBJECT: REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT TO PARTICIPATE WITH THE COUNCIL FOR EDUCATIONAL CHANGE (CEC) TO CONTINUE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PARTNERSHIP TO ADVANCE SCHOOL SUCCESS (PASS) PROGRAM FOR THE PERIOD FROM JULY 1, 2005, THROUGH JUNE 30, 2008, AND TO ENTER INTO INDIVIDUAL AGREEMENTS WITH CEC

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Since 1997, Miami-Dade County Public Schools has participated with the South Florida Annenberg Challenge (SFAC) in a public/private partnership to support public education. In the tri-county area of Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach Counties, a total of \$100 million has been allocated to improve public education through more than 100 diverse school improvement programs. For every dollar of in-kind contribution from the school districts, SFAC raised one dollar, matched by a dollar from the late Ambassador Walter Annenberg.

Although the SFAC officially ended December 31, 2002, a successor organization, entitled Council for Educational Change (CEC), continues the various educational programs including the Partnership to Advance School Success (PASS) Program. Authorization is requested to enter into individual PASS agreements, for a total of \$300,000, for each school project and to continue the PASS program.

The PASS Program, a statewide initiative, teams a Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of a major Florida corporation (business partner) with the principal of an underperforming school for three years. The CEO mentors the school principal and together they incorporate successful business strategies into school management techniques.

For each of the participating PASS schools, a school-specific program plan includes a three-year budget for the use of funds. Each participating PASS school commits in-kind resources, valued at \$100,000; CEC receives \$100,000 from the business partner; and CEC receives \$100,000 funded by a grant from the Florida Legislature. CEC is the fiscal agent for the grants. For fiscal year 2005-2006, the Legislature has funded the statewide PASS Program in the amount of \$920,000 through Specific Appropriation 86.

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The role of the CEC, as the program coordinator and fiscal agent, is to identify business partners willing to commit \$100,000 to facilitate the school selection, offer and assist with technological knowledge, and provide oversight and evaluation. Since 2000, through a contract with the CEC, the University of Miami has conducted the evaluation of the PASS Program. The role of the CEO is to provide a \$100,000 contribution and to mentor the school principal in the implementation of the school plan for student achievement. The role of the school principal is to prepare and implement the school plan for student achievement, to identify in-kind resources valued at \$100,000, and to provide periodic program and fiscal reports to the CEC. Over a three-year period, each selected school will benefit from \$200,000 of cash and \$100,000 of in-kind resources. As schools are identified, the School Board will be notified.

The selection of the participating schools is based on the following criteria: low-performing schools, an emphasis on elementary school level, joint commitment between the CEO and the principal to develop a school plan to raise student achievement, equity among Regional Centers to the extent possible, and appropriate District curriculum review. The grant program is managed by each school under the direction of School Operations.

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

1. participate with the Council for Educational Change (CEC) to continue implementation of the Partnership to Advance School Success (PASS) Program for the period from July 1, 2005, through June 30, 2008;
2. enter into individual agreements with CEC; and
3. renew the PASS Program for a maximum of three years.

AMC:mgl