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Curriculum, Instruction, and School Improvement

**SUBJECT: REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SCHOOL BOARD OF
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, TO RECEIVE AN OVERVIEW OF
SECONDARY SCHOOL REFORM NEW SCHOOL OPTIONS**

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS), the fourth largest school district in the nation, is committed to ensuring that our instructional programs are responsive to the needs of students, parents, and the community on local, national, and international levels. As we move forward in Secondary School Reform (SSR) efforts, the District is pursuing opportunities to significantly alter the educational experiences of students in order to meet the goals of raising the academic performance of all students; increasing the graduation rate; reducing the achievement gap; and graduating literate students who are ready for college, career, and citizenship.

One of these opportunities is the creation of small learning communities within existing secondary schools. Another is the development of small schools based on academic themes. To this end, the Special Interest Schools (SIS) Task Force, comprised of District, regional, school site administrators, teachers, community representatives, parents, and the United Teachers of Dade, was charged with developing small schools with a unique instructional focus based on career options and the demands of business and industry in South Florida. The schools proposed by the SIS Task Force include:

- Aerospace Science
- Animal Resources and Pre-Veterinary Medicine
- Art and Aesthetics
- International Finance
- International Studies
- Law Studies, Homeland Security, and Forensic Sciences
- Medical Research and Technologies
- Musical Arts of South Florida
- Olympic Education and Sport
- Real Estate, Architecture, and Construction

Other new options have already been approved by the Board (e.g., school with Florida Memorial University (FMU), Young Women's Leadership Academy, and Young Men's Preparatory Academy), and additional schools are being explored such as the establishment of a partnership with the University of Miami for a Math and Science school. The chart that follows identifies possible location, number of seats and funding for the schools currently being proposed.

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OVERVIEW OF NEW CAPACITY NEEDS FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL REFORM

I. SPECIAL INTEREST SCHOOLS

SCHOOL	PROPOSED LOCATION	# OF SEATS	FUNDING/TIMELINE
Aerospace Science	Museum of Science @ Bicentennial Park (Miami)	400	Funding for classrooms only to be added to Capital Plan; ancillary spaces to be built by Museum
Art and Aesthetics	Museum of Art @ Bicentennial Park (Miami)	400	Funding for classrooms only to be added to Capital Plan; ancillary spaces to be built by Museum
Pre-Veterinary	U of Miami Collaboration (adjacent to MetroZoo)	400	In Capital Plan for FY 06/07 and 07/08
International Finance	Goleman/American relief area	400	In Capital Plan for FY 07/08 and 08/09
International Finance	Killian/Palmetto relief area	400	In Capital Plan for FY 06/07 and 07/08
International Studies	Miami/Coral Gables (RFP to be issued for turnkey)	700	In Capital Plan for FY 06/07 and 07/08
Law Studies/Homeland Security/Forensic Studies	Miami Police Department-Downtown Miami	400	Funding for classrooms only to be added to Capital Plan; ancillary spaces to be built by Museum
Medical Research and Technologies	Civic Center area - Miami	500	To be funded from site acquisition \$ for Miami Sr. no longer needed
Medical Research and Technologies	Homestead relief area	500	FY 05/06 and 06/07
Musical Arts	Varela/Sunset/Southridge relief area	800	In Capital Plan for FY 05/06, 06/07 and 07/08
Olympic Education and Sport	North Miami Senior relief area	600	In Capital Plan for FY 05/06
Real Estate, Architecture and Construction	City of Hialeah	500	In Capital Plan for FY 05/06

II. OTHER NEW OPTIONS

SCHOOL	PROPOSED LOCATION	# OF SEATS	FUNDING/TIMELINE
Young Women's Academy	1150 SW 1 Street - Miami	450	To be funded from site acquisition \$ for Miami Sr. no longer needed
Young Men's Academy	Former Buena Vista Elementary site	450	To be funded through cooperation with developer under RFP and preservation grant \$
Firefighters' High School	Homestead relief area	400	FY 05/06 and 06/07
FMU Collaboration	District/FMU/County property	750	FY 05/06; additional funding to be added once terms of collaboration are finalized
Cambridge International	Homestead relief area	500	In Capital Plan for FY 05/06 and 06/07
Math/Science	U of Miami Collaboration (adjacent to MetroZoo)	900	In Capital Plan for FY 06/07 and 07/08
Math/Science	Killian/Palmetto relief area	800	In Capital Plan for FY 06/07 and 07/08

Student selection will follow attendance boundary priorities for students living within the area. In the event that there are remaining available seats, these will be distributed following established School Board Rules. The design of both the school facility and the curricular programs will reflect a unique educational environment. These schools will be distributed throughout Miami-Dade County based on capacity needs, availability of capital funding as allocated in the Five-Year Capital Plan for 2005-2009, as well as unique opportunities to partner with appropriate non-profit, cultural, business or housing developments. At the appropriate time, each of these schools will be brought to the Board for approval.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, receive an overview of Secondary School Reform new school options.

AD/LCR/aar