

Antoinette Dunbar, Deputy Superintendent
Curriculum, Instruction, and School Improvement

**SUBJECT: REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT TO
ESTABLISH AND IMPLEMENT THE VOLUNTARY PREKINDER-
GARTEN SUMMER PROGRAM**

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In 2002, the Florida Legislature enacted HB 1A, entitled the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education (VPK) Program. Its intent is to provide a high quality prekindergarten learning opportunity for every four-year-old in the state. To fulfill the law, Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) provided VPK classes during the 2005-2006 school year for 4,959 students at 187 schools.

Florida State Statute 1002.61 requires public school districts to offer a 300-hour summer VPK program to eligible children who did not receive instructional services during the regular school year. The summer VPK program will consist of six (6) hours of high-quality instruction per day for 40 days with a 30-minute rest time. The program will take place from June 2, 2006, through July 31, 2006. The registration process began March 1, 2006 at six (6) locations designated by the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe and selected Miami-Dade County Public Schools. One hundred forty-six (146) classes will be established in 57 schools selected by School Operations in conjunction with the Division of Early Childhood Programs to serve approximately 2,920 students. Schools will be selected based on their geographic location and the availability of multiple classrooms equipped with prekindergarten curriculum materials, equipment and furnishing. The summer prekindergarten curriculum is designed to provide foundational skills to address the whole child. Additionally, a life skills strand will be offered on four (4) Saturdays at three (3) cluster schools in each region. Students will be provided with developmentally appropriate activities that incorporate family literacy, physical development, and exposure to the arts. All VPK students will be assessed at the beginning of the 2006-2007 school year using the School Readiness Uniform Screening System.

In support of this effort, teachers will receive stipends to attend professional development activities prior to the beginning of the summer program. In support of best practices in early childhood education, families will be provided with Family Literacy Nights activities on four week nights as well as with Family Literacy At-Home Packets. The program is funded by the Agency for Workforce Innovation through the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe at no cost to the District.

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RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to establish and implement the Voluntary Prekindergarten Summer Program as mandated by Florida State Statute 1002.61; from June 2, 2006, through July 31, 2006, for approximately 2,920 students at 57 schools.

No local funds are required.

CJ/SJD:vw