

Office of Human Resources
Mariaelena Vidal, Human Resources Officer

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT TO
ENTER INTO A COLLABORATIVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN MIAMI-
DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND TEACH FOR AMERICA, INC.
FOR THE TEACH FOR AMERICA PROGRAM FOR THE 2006-2007,
2007-2008 AND 2008-2009 SCHOOL YEARS**

COMMITTEE: SCHOOL SUPPORT ACCOUNTABILITY

On December 11, 2002, Dr. Solomon C Stinson, School Board Member, proposed, and the School Board authorized the Superintendent to explore the feasibility of implementing the Teach For America Program in Miami-Dade County Public Schools during the 2003-2004 school year. Teach For America is the national corps of outstanding recent college graduates who commit two years to teach in urban and rural public schools in the nation's lowest-income communities and become lifelong leaders for expanding educational opportunity. Since 1990, more than 14,000 exceptional individuals have joined Teach For America, including 3,500 corps members currently teaching 300,000 students in 22 regions across the country and more than 10,000 Teach For America alumni, the vast majority of whom are still working in education or on related issues in low income communities.

On February 12, 2003, the Superintendent entered into a collaborative agreement between Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) and Teach For America, Inc. to implement the Teach For America Program during the 2003-2004, 2004-2005, and 2005-2006 school years. An evaluation was conducted by M-DCPS during the 2004-2005 school year which concluded that the partnership should be extended.

Authorization is requested to extend the collaborative agreement between MDCPS and the Teach For America Program for the 2006-2007, 2007-2008, and 2008-2009 school years.

As a result of this collaborative agreement, Teach For America will:

1. continue to assist the district in identifying and hiring highly qualified teachers from an ethnically and racially diverse corps of highly sought-after college graduates recruited by Teach For America, Inc.;
2. provide the district up to an additional 50 teachers in 2006-2007, up to an additional 75 teachers in 2007-2008, and up to an additional 100 teachers in 2008-2009, identified by Teach For America, Inc., from diverse ethnic and racial backgrounds with a history of personal and academic achievement and a commitment to work to close the achievement gap between their students and students in more affluent communities; and

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3. provide staff development and related support services to Teach For America teachers in the areas of instructional leadership, instructional planning and delivery, classroom management and culture, and literacy development.

The district will provide \$1,650 per teacher per year to Teach For America, Inc., in support of recruitment, selection, training, staff development and ongoing support services provided to each teacher hired through the program. Teach For America will secure additional funding from additional sources to fully support program implementation. Participants will be afforded access to the district's Alternative Certification Program. The total cost of this collaborative agreement, excluding teacher salaries and benefits, will not exceed \$684,750, over the three year period. Funding for this collaborative agreement will be provided through the Title II Teacher and Principal Quality Program grant.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to enter into a collaborative agreement between Miami-Dade County Public Schools and Teach For America, Inc., for the 2006-2007, 2007-2008, and 2008-2009 school years, at a cost not to exceed \$684,750 over the three year period.

MV:mtp