

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

SUBJECT: REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT WITH FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION SCIENCES AND DISORDERS TO PROVIDE SPECIALIZED SPEECH AND LANGUAGE SERVICES FOR SPEECH AND LANGUAGE-IMPAIRED STUDENTS, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$293,000, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2006, THROUGH JUNE 30, 2007

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Authorization is requested to enter into a contractual agreement with Florida International University (FIU) Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders to provide specialized speech and language services for speech and language-impaired students, in an amount not to exceed \$293,000, effective July 1, 2006, through June 30, 2007. The Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders has specific expertise in providing speech, language, and hearing screenings; evaluations; and therapeutic and consultative services to prekindergarten, elementary, and secondary level students.

Florida International University Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders is the only master's speech-language pathology program in the nation that prepares its students to work with bilingual populations, focusing on speakers of Spanish, Haitian Creole, and English. FIU will provide advanced master's speech-language pathology students and certified speech-language pathologist faculty members who will supervise them. The students and faculty supervisors will report to the Department's clinical coordinator who supervises clinical program activities and equipment maintenance. FIU will provide diagnostic and therapy materials and Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) will provide calibrated audiometers.

The Professional Services Contract Committee established by School Board Rule 6Gx13-3F-1.021, reviewed this item on March 30, 2006, and recommended that an exception to the rule regarding bids or Request for Proposals be granted for FIU based on specific expertise. The specific expertise is based on the fact that FIU is the only master's speech-language pathology program in the nation that prepares its students to work competently with bilingual populations by focusing on speakers of Spanish, Haitian Creole, and English. A Request for Proposal (RFP) was not initiated since the majority of students at FIU's Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders are

equipped to work with students and families whose first language is not Standard American English.

The Coordinator of Clinical Education of the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders is Dr. Jean Mead.

The appropriation for this item will be included in the Other Federal Programs Fund of (Contracted Program Fund) under Fund 0402, Function 5200, Program 3283, Object 5310, Location 9615.

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

1. enter into a contractual agreement with Florida International University (FIU) Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders to provide specialized speech and language services for speech and language-impaired students, in an amount not to exceed \$293,000, effective July 1, 2006, through June 30, 2007; and
2. grant an exception to School Board Rule 6Gx13-3F-1.021, for FIU based on specific expertise.

The appropriation for this item will be included in the Other Federal Programs Fund (Contracted Programs Fund).

LCR/BB:jf