

Office of School Board Attorney
JulieAnn Rico Allison, Board Attorney

**SUBJECT: EMPLOYEE'S REQUEST FOR AN EXTENSION OF TIME TO FILE
EXCEPTIONS TO RECOMMENDED ORDER
THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA v. JOAN
E. WILLIAMS, - DOAH CASE NO. 05-1802**

At its regularly scheduled meeting of May 18, 2005, the School Board took action to suspend and initiate dismissal proceedings against school psychologist, Joan E. Williams, for just cause. The employee timely requested an evidentiary hearing on the matter. The Administrative Law Judge assigned by the Division of Administrative Hearings, held a hearing on October 17-20, 2005 inclusive and on December 12-15, 2005, inclusive. Judge Claude Arrington issued his Recommended Order on April 25, 2006 affirming the School Board's termination of Respondent for incompetency and gross insubordination. Under the provisions of Section 120.569, Fla. Stat., the parties have 15 calendar days to submit written exceptions to the Recommended Order. The exceptions are currently due no later than May 10, 2006.

On May 2, 2006, the Attorney's Office received from Respondent Williams an "Emergency Motion for Extension of Time," requesting an extension of 90 days to file exceptions. Pursuant to Section 120.569(1)(l), Fla.Stat., the School Board is required to render a Final Order on this matter within 90 days of April 25, 2006. The School Board's Final Order must be rendered at the July 2006 Board meeting. In order to meet the statutory deadlines, it is recommended that a 23-day extension of time be granted. If a 23-day extension is granted, Respondent's exceptions would be due no later than June 2, 2006.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, grant the Respondent a 23-calendar-day extension of time, up to and including June 2, 2006, to file exceptions to the Administrative Law Judge's Recommended Order issued in The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida v. Joan E. Williams, DOAH Case No. 05-1802.