

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

**SUBJECT:       REQUEST THAT THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, APPROVE THE CONVERSION OF MORNINGSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TO A BILINGUAL SCHOOL ORGANIZATION (BISO) MODEL AND A MAGNET SCHOOL WITH AN ATTENDANCE BOUNDARY**

**COMMITTEE:   INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

One of the objectives under Goal II of the District Strategic Plan is to develop our students so that they are able to successfully compete in the global economy. The study of world languages is an integral component of this goal. In 1963, Coral Way Elementary became the first bilingual public school in the nation. It has served as a pioneer and model for dual language schools and programs throughout the world. Today, based on the enormous success of Coral Way Elementary, eight additional elementary schools are implementing the Bilingual School Organization (BISO) model and 71 schools are implementing the Extended Foreign Language (EFL) program. The schools implementing the BISO model deliver 60% of instruction in English and 40% in a language other than English to all students in the schools. The EFL program follows a school-within-a-school model, which is open to all students within the school, and provides one to two hours of daily instructional time in the target language.

In today's global economy, the need for a multilingual workforce is an ever-increasing demand. We live in an interconnected society where we are constantly communicating with people from all over the world. In response to parent requests, Morningside Elementary School is seeking to expand the current world languages program by converting to the BISO model. This conversion will afford dual language education for all students attending the school by providing additional instructional time in and through French, Haitian-Creole or Spanish.

The conversion will begin during the 2006-2007 school year with the in-coming Kindergarten and grade one students participating in the BISO model. Students will select to study French, Haitian-Creole, or Spanish as part of the curricula offerings. Each of these language programs will be initiated only if a minimum of twelve students register for that specific language at each grade level (Kindergarten and grade one).

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The program will continue to expand as the students progress to each subsequent grade level. Those students whose parents choose not to participate in the BISO model have the option of transferring to Toussaint L'Ouverture Elementary or Edison Park Elementary, both within Regional Center 4.

In addition, the existing International Education magnet program currently benefiting selected students in grades two through five will be expanded to include the entire school population. As such, all students will have access to an integrated multi-culturally enriched program. The curriculum will include the in-depth study of different countries and promote the concept of global citizenship. As a magnet school with boundaries, defined in School Board Rule 6Gx13-6A-1.46 Magnet Programs/Schools, Morningside Elementary will provide an opportunity for students throughout Regional Center 4 and beyond to apply during the magnet application cycle which begins on October 1 and ends on January 31 each school year.

The existing International Education program will continue in grades two through five until the students presently enrolled in the program complete grade five and all grades are phased in the BISO model.

**RECOMMENDED:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve:

1. the conversion of Morningside Elementary School to a Bilingual School Organization (BISO) model, to begin implementation with the 2006-2007 Kindergarten and first grade class;
2. expand the BISO model by an additional grade level each subsequent year; and
3. convert the existing International Education magnet program to a magnet school with an attendance boundary until the students presently enrolled in the program complete grade five and all grades are phased in the BISO model.

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