

Business Operations  
Ofelia San Pedro, Deputy Superintendent

**SUBJECT: REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO NEGOTIATE AND ENTER INTO CONTRACTUAL SERVICES AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, AND AMERICA'S CHOICE, INC., AND PEARSON ACHIEVEMENT SOLUTIONS, PURSUANT TO REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS NO. 028-FF10 – SCHOOL REFORM AND PROJECT-BASED LEARNING**

**COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Request For Proposals No. 028-FF10 – SCHOOL REFORM AND PROJECT-BASED LEARNING, which opened on May 30, 2006, is to obtain services to provide data-driven K-12 professional development, which will be focused on improving the quality of student instruction and student performance through teachers, district-wide. Eight vendors responded to this advertised solicitation, with 7 proposals meeting specifications and 1 no proposal. This is a term proposal which states that the Board may purchase quantities, as may be required, but is not obligated to purchase any guaranteed amount. It is anticipated that approximately 10 schools will participate in this program during the contract period. Funding will be provided through grants received.

The proposers will evaluate the quality of instruction on an individual school and/or class basis and develop and implement a customized professional development plan to meet specific needs. The proposer will also provide a leadership team, training, and access to web-based research tools and project-based learning.

A meeting of the Selection Committee to evaluate the proposals was held on June 9, 2006. Seven (7) proposals were presented for consideration: America's Choice, Inc.; Educational Testing Service; Modern Red SchoolHouse; Pearson Achievement Solutions; Success for All Foundation, Inc.; Ventures Education Systems Corporation; and WestEd. After considerable discussion, the Committee recommended that two (2) proposers be recommended for award; America's Choice, Inc. and Pearson Achievement Solutions.

Presently, two schools have secured funding to access these services. John A. Ferguson Senior High School, using the Secondary School Reform grant, anticipates spending \$71,000 per year to receive on-site contracted professional services from Pearson Achievement Solutions. Thena Crowder Elementary intends to use the Voluntary Public School Choice Grant ("I Choose"), for approximately \$140,000 in professional services per year, from America's Choice, Inc.

Additional funds through these, or other grants, may become available during the term of this contract, enabling additional schools to access these services.

The recommendation below requests authorization to enter into contract with America's Choice, Inc. and Pearson Achievement Solutions, on an as-needed basis, for individual schools, per the negotiated terms in the Request For Proposals No. 028-FF10 – SCHOOL REFORM AND PROJECT-BASED LEARNING.

Fund Source

0420 - Contracted Programs Fund

M/WBE Eligibility

None

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, **AUTHORIZE** the Superintendent of Schools to negotiate and enter into contractual services agreements between The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, and America's Choice, Inc. and Pearson Achievement Solutions, pursuant to Request For Proposals No. 028-FF10 – SCHOOL REFORM AND PROJECT-BASED LEARNING, to obtain services to provide data-driven K-12 professional development, which will be focused on improving the quality of student instruction and student performance through teachers, district-wide, effective September 13, 2006, through September 12, 2009, as follows:

1. AMERICA'S CHOICE, INC.  
555 13 STREET, N.W., SUITE 500 WEST  
WASHINGTON, DC 20004  
JOHN A. WOZNIAK, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER
2. PEARSON ACHIEVEMENT SOLUTIONS  
3330 OCEAN PARK BOULEVARD  
SANTA MONICA, CA 90405  
JOHN SUPER, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

OSP/lja