

Office of Professional Development
Ava G. Byrne, Deputy Superintendent

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND MATHEMATICA POLICY RESEARCH, INC., TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SECOND YEAR OF A U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FUNDED STUDY ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF TEACHER INDUCTION PROGRAMS AND ACCEPT FUNDING FROM MATHEMATICA POLICY RESEARCH, INC., TO SUPPORT SALARIES FOR CURRICULUM SUPPORT SPECIALISTS PARTICIPATING IN THE STUDY

COMMITTEE: SCHOOL SUPPORT ACCOUNTABILITY

Miami-Dade County Public Schools has been selected to participate in the second year of an ongoing national study examining the impact of teacher induction programs in retaining new and early career educators. The study is being conducted by Mathematica Policy Research, Inc., (MPR) through a grant provided by the U.S. Department of Education. Grant funding was originally earmarked for a one-year study to assess the effects of implementing intensive induction programs modeled by the New Teacher Center at the University of California at Santa Cruz. The U.S. Department of Education elected to extend funding to support a second year of the study. Accordingly, MPR will continue to measure the impact of intensive new teacher induction and support programs on teacher retention rates, classroom practices and student achievement.

During the 2005-2006 school year, M-DCPS and MPR entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) outlining the parties' roles and responsibilities relating to implementation of the study in the District. The proposed MOU authorizes MPR to extend the study during the 2006-2007 school year. In particular, MPR will continue to offer intensive induction support for 55 early career teachers that participated in the study during the 2005-2006 school year. Participants currently teach in 17 treatment schools. In order to measure the differential impact between the intensive support program offered through MPR and regular induction services offered throughout the District, MPR will also monitor 46 new teachers in 12 additional schools.

To facilitate the implementation of the study, Mathematica Policy Research, Inc., will continue to provide funding for five (5) Curriculum Support Specialists that will serve as full-time mentor teachers assisting participating teachers at treatment sites. Authorization is accordingly requested to accept funding in the amount of \$339,614.00 from Mathematica Policy Research, Inc. This amount represents salaries and benefits to support five Curriculum Support Specialists during the period of August 10, 2006, through June 30, 2007. No district funds will be expended.

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

1. approve the proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Miami-Dade County Public Schools and Mathematica Policy Research, Inc., to participate in the second year of a study funded by the U.S. Department of Education to examine the impact of teacher induction programs;
2. accept funding from Mathematica Policy Research, Inc., in the amount of \$339,614.00, to support Curriculum Support Specialists providing induction services related to the study during the period of August 10, 2006, through June 30, 2007; and
3. direct Financial Operations to establish appropriations in the amounts provided or as amended by the funding agency; such appropriations to be reported to the Board.

AGB/cm