

Freddie Woodson, Associate Superintendent  
School Operations

**SUBJECT: REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT TO ENTER INTO AN INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT WITH THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES DISTRICT 11, OUR KIDS OF MIAMI-DADE/MONROE, INC., AND SOUTH FLORIDA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD, FOR STUDENTS IN FOSTER CARE**

**COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

The mission of Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) is to provide the highest quality education so that all of our students are empowered to lead productive and fulfilling lives as life-long learners and responsible citizens. Our District serves many at-risk youth that face major life challenges due to factors outside of their control, and which make the act of participating in the educational process sometimes insurmountable. Many of those at-risk children are caught in the cycle of the state's child welfare system. Children that are in foster care often have a high mobility rate and face other issues that make getting consistent and appropriate educational services extremely important, but also extremely difficult.

In order to improve the coordination and delivery of services for dependent children attending M-DCPS, and pursuant to Florida Statute 409.1671, M-DCPS has established an interagency agreement with the Florida Department of Children and Families District 11, Our Kids of Miami-Dade/Monroe, Inc., and South Florida Workforce Development.

The purpose of this agreement is to promote collaboration among the parties to ensure educational access and related services and programs to dependent students; to combine resources to maximize efficient availability or delivery of services and programs; and to share responsibility for the elimination of barriers to school enrollment for dependent children and children awaiting foster care placement.

This item delineates an agreement to collaborate and cooperate regarding the education and related services for children known to the DCF and/or referred to Our Kids and who fall within the limits of the services contract. The Parties will review each agency's rules, regulations, policies and practices, make recommendations regarding these policies and facilitate substantive information sharing and communication. Each of the Parties agree to appoint a Liaison to coordinate, promote and maintain their procedures to align the work necessary to achieve appropriate educational and related services.

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This agreement further outlines the information sharing responsibilities maintaining compliance with federal law, Florida Statutes, and Section 1002.22, Florida Statutes as it relates to the children who fall within the limits of the services contract. The agreement delineates specific procedures to promote student attendance and a stable educational program, inclusive of enrollment and transportation processes. They include early intervention services and case planning through independent living and the pursuit of post secondary education. This item provides for every advantage that this system can offer to improve the lives of these children, which will greatly benefit our students, school system and community.

There is no cost to the District.

**RECOMMENDED:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to enter into an interagency agreement with the Florida Department of Children and Families District 11, Our Kids of Miami-Dade/Monroe, Inc., and South Florida Workforce Development Board, for students in Foster Care.

There is no cost to the District.

FW/KC/MEZ:jc