

Antoinette Dunbar, Deputy Superintendent  
Curriculum and Instruction

**SUBJECT:           REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT WITH YOUTH ETHICS INITIATIVE, INC., TO DEVELOP TEACHING MODULES ON ETHICS AND PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR SECONDARY TEACHERS, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED, \$200,000, EFFECTIVE MARCH 15, 2007, THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2007**

**COMMITTEE:       INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

**LINK TO DISTRICT STRATEGIC PLAN:           SECONDARY SCHOOL REFORM**

Authorization is requested for the Superintendent to enter into a contractual agreement with Youth Ethics Initiative, Inc. (YEI), to develop a customized, web-based suite of instructional resources to support character and ethics education in the District and provide professional development for secondary teachers. These services will be provided by YEI, in an amount not to exceed \$200,000, beginning March 15, 2007, through September 30, 2007.

Youth Ethics Initiative, Inc. (YEI) is a local, non-profit 501(c) (3) corporation whose mission is to promote and advocate ethics awareness and training for students and educators. YEI has worked closely with the District since 1998 to offer programs designed to help students make ethically sound decisions in real life situations. Through this contractual agreement, the academic advisory committee of YEI, composed of college and university professors and other experts in the field of ethics, will develop a customized, web-based suite of instructional resources, including 25 teaching modules, to further support ethics education in the District. The teaching modules developed by YEI will complement the District's Competency-Based Curriculum, the State and District character education requirements, and the federally funded Partnership in Character Education grant. The teaching modules will further support the District's civic literacy and secondary school reform initiatives.

The comprehensive teaching modules will include lesson plans, background information on ethics for the teacher, student readings and case studies, class activities and projects, and student assessments. Teaching modules to support instruction in secondary language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, health, the arts, and athletics are anticipated.

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The suite of instructional resources produced by YEI, including the comprehensive teaching modules, will be the only such resources in the nation produced by a team of academic experts. To support the delivery of the instructional resources in the classroom, professional development will be offered to secondary teachers by the academic advisory committee of YEI.

The Professional Services Contract Committee established by School Board Rule 6Gx13-3F-1.021 reviewed this contractual agreement on February 22, 2007, and recommended that an exception to the rule regarding bids or Requests for Proposals be granted by the Committee because the contractor has specific expertise in the development of web-based instructional resources for ethics education and the related professional development. Academic Projector Directors for YEI are Dr. Debbie Noguerras and Dr. Kenneth Goodman.

The appropriation for this item is included in the 2006-2007 budget under Fund 0420, Location 9634, Program 4933, Object 5310, and Function 6300.

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

1. enter into a contractual agreement with Youth Ethics Initiative, Inc. (YEI), to develop teaching modules on ethics and provide professional development for secondary teachers, in an amount not to exceed \$200,000, effective March 15, 2007, through September 30, 2007; and
2. grant an exception to Board Rule 6Gx13-3F-1.021, based on sole source.

The appropriation for this item is included in the 2006-2007 budget.

AD/MRF/JRD