

Antoinette Dunbar, Deputy Superintendent  
Curriculum and Instruction

**SUBJECT:           REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT TO  
IMPLEMENT THE VOLUNTARY PREKINDERGARTEN SUMMER  
PROGRAM (JUNE 4, 2007- JULY 30, 2007)**

**COMMITTEE:       INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

**LINK TO DISTRICT  
STRATEGIC PLAN:       IMPROVE AND EXPAND CURRENT CURRICULUM**

In 2002, the Florida Legislature enacted HB 1A, entitled the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education (VPK) Program. Its intent is to provide a high quality prekindergarten learning opportunity for every four-year-old in the state. Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) is currently providing VPK classes for 4,735 students at 192 schools. In addition, Florida State Statute 1002.61 requires public school districts to offer a 300-hour summer VPK program to eligible children who did not receive instructional services during the regular school year.

The summer VPK program will consist of six (6) hours of high-quality instruction per day for 40 days with a 30-minute rest time. The program will take place from June 4, 2007, through July 30, 2007. Additionally, a life skills strand will be offered at each site on four (4) Saturdays. Students will be provided with developmentally appropriate activities that incorporate family literacy, physical development, and exposure to the arts.

The registration process, to obtain a Certificate of Eligibility (COE), will begin April 3, 2007 at ten (10) locations designated by the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe (ELC/MD). A minimum of twenty-five classes will be established in the 12 schools, two per Region. The Regions and schools are as follows:

- Region I: Carol City and Mae Walters Elementary Schools
- Region II: North Miami and Parkview Elementary Schools
- Region III: Benjamin Franklin and Eugenia B. Thomas Elementary Schools
- Region IV: Phillis Wheatley and Morningside Elementary Schools
- Region V: Dante Fascell and Howard Drive Elementary Schools
- Region VI: Gilbert L. Porter and Laura C. Saunders Elementary Schools

**C-21**

Each school site was selected by School Operations in conjunction with the Division of Early Childhood Programs. The Summer VPK program will serve an estimated 500 students. Schools were selected based on their geographic location and the availability of multiple classrooms equipped with prekindergarten curriculum materials, equipment and furnishing. Parents will be notified of the availability of this program through extensive marketing by the ELC/MD and fliers provided to MDCPS school sites by the Division of Early Childhood Programs. All VPK students will be assessed at the beginning of the 2007-2008 school year using the Florida Kindergarten Readiness Screener (FLKRS).

Teachers will receive professional development activities prior to the beginning of the summer program. Additionally, best practices in early childhood education for families will be provided by Family Literacy Nights activities on four week nights as well as with Family Literacy At-Home Packets. The program is funded by the Agency for Workforce Innovation through the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe at no cost to the District.

**RECOMMENDED:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to implement the Voluntary Prekindergarten Summer Program as mandated by Florida State Statute 1002.61; from June 4, 2007, through July 30, 2007 for an estimated 500 students at 12 schools.

No local funds are required.

CJ/SJD:vw