

Antoinette Dunbar, Deputy Superintendent
Curriculum and Instruction

SUBJECT: REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT WITH FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION SCIENCES AND DISORDERS TO PROVIDE SPECIALIZED SPEECH AND LANGUAGE SERVICES FOR SPEECH AND LANGUAGE-IMPAIRED STUDENTS, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$293,000, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2007, THROUGH JUNE 30, 2008

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

LINK TO DISTRICT

STRATEGIC PLAN: GENERAL OPERATIONS

Authorization is requested to enter into a contractual agreement with Florida International University (FIU) Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders to provide specialized speech and language services for speech and language-impaired students, in an amount not to exceed \$293,000, effective July 1, 2007, through June 30, 2008. The Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders has specific expertise in providing speech, language, and hearing screenings; evaluations; and therapeutic and consultative services to prekindergarten, elementary, and secondary level students. This contractual agreement has been in effect since 2005.

Florida International University Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders is the only master's speech-language pathology program in the nation that prepares its students to work with bilingual populations, focusing on speakers of Spanish, Haitian Creole, and English. FIU will provide advanced master's speech-language pathology students and certified speech-language pathologist faculty members who will supervise them. The students and faculty supervisors will report to the Department's clinical coordinator who supervises clinical program activities, equipment, and equipment maintenance. FIU will provide diagnostic and therapy materials and Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) will provide calibrated audiometers.

C-5

The Professional Services Contract Committee established by School Board Rule 6Gx13-3F-1.021, reviewed this item on March 22, 2007, and recommended that an exception to the rule regarding bids or Request for Proposals be granted as FIU has specific expertise. The specific expertise is based on the fact that FIU is the only master' speech-language pathology program in the nation that prepares its students to work competently with bilingual populations by focusing on Spanish, Haitian Creole, and English. A Request for Proposals (RFP) was not initiated since the majority of students at FIU's Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders are equipped to work with students and families whose first language is not Standard American English.

This program is evaluated by administrative and support staff from the Division of Special Education. The evaluation, including school site visits, and monitoring student records and program delivery models, found the services ensure compliance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requirements.

The Coordinator of Clinical Education of the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders is Dr. Jean Mead.

The appropriation for this item will be included in the Other Federal Programs Fund (Contracted Programs Fund) of the Tentative Budget to be recommended for adoption in July 2007, under Fund 0402, Function 5200, Program 3420, Object 5310, Location 9615.

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

1. enter into a contractual agreement with Florida International University (FIU) Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders to provide specialized speech and language services for speech and language-impaired students, in an amount not to exceed \$293,000, effective July 1, 2007, through June 30, 2008; and
2. grant an exception to School Board Rule 6Gx13-3F-1.021, for FIU based on specific expertise.

The appropriation for this item will be included in the Other Federal Programs Fund (Contracted Programs Fund) of the 2007-2008 Tentative Budget to be recommended for adoption in July 2007.

LCR/BB:jf