

Antoinette Dunbar, Deputy Superintendent
Curriculum and Instruction

SUBJECT: REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI MAILMAN CENTER FOR CHILD DEVELOPMENT TO PROVIDE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES AND SPECIALIZED SPEECH TRAINING FOR DEAF AND HARD-OF-HEARING STUDENTS, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$500,123 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 the University of Miami Mailman Center for Child Development to provide educational services and specialized speech training for students who are deaf and hard-of-hearing, effective July 1, 2007, through June 30, 2008. The University of Miami's Auditory/Oral Education Program for the deaf and hard-of-hearing specializes in training students to use sensory aids such as hearing aids and tactile aids or cochlear implants. When worn in combination with hearing aids, tactile aids enhance the ability to understand and produce spoken language. Basic instruction, as well as individual and group speech therapy, focuses on developing the students' oral speech and language skills. This contractual agreement has been in effect since 1985.

The University of Miami's Auditory/Oral Education Program will provide certified personnel, technical and training assistance to implement the program, an on-site training coordinator who supervises program activities, equipment, and equipment maintenance. Students will receive basic instruction as well as individual and group sensory aid instruction. Additionally, the University of Miami's Auditory/Oral Education Program will provide technical and training assistance for students after they transition into public schools.

Funding for this contract will be provided by FTE from the Florida Education Finance Program. The contractual agreement will provide for a maximum of 35 full-time students to be served in the University of Miami's Auditory/Oral Education Program based on their Individual Educational Plans (IEPs) or Individualized Family Support Plans (IFSPs) and on their current matrix funding levels, including a maximum of ten students below age three, in an amount not to exceed \$500,123.

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This program is evaluated by administrative and support staff from the Division of Special Education. The evaluation, including a facility review, site visits, and monitoring student records and program delivery models, found the program to be effective in providing educational services and special speech training for deaf and hard-of-hearing students.

The Associate Director of Educational Services for the University of Miami Mailman Center for Child Development, Auditory/Oral Education Program, is Ms. Kathleen Vergara.

The appropriation for this item will be included in the General Fund of the 2007-2008 Tentative Budget to be recommended for adoption in July 2007, under Fund 0100, Function 5217, Program 6840, Object 5310, Location 9731.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to enter into a contractual agreement with the University of Miami Mailman Center for Child Development to provide educational services and specialized speech training for deaf and hard-of-hearing students, in an amount not to exceed \$500,123, effective July 1, 2007, through June 30, 2008.

The appropriation for this item will be included in the General Fund of the 2007-2008 Tentative Budget to be recommended for the adoption in July 2007.

LCR/BB:jf