

Antoinette Dunbar, Deputy Superintendent
Curriculum and Instruction

SUBJECT: AUTHORIZATION IS REQUESTED FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT TO NEGOTIATE AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, AND SCIENTIFIC LEARNING TO PROVIDE ON-SITE TRAINING AND CONSULTATIVE SERVICES TO 40 SCHOOL SITES IMPLEMENTING FAST FORWARD AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$290,500

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

LINK TO DISTRICT

STRATEGIC PLAN: ENSURE ACHIEVEMENT OF HIGH ACADEMIC STANDARDS BY ALL STUDENTS

Authorization is requested for the Superintendent to negotiate and enter into a contractual agreement between The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, and Scientific Learning to provide on-site Fast ForWord training and consulting services to 40 school sites from October 18, 2007, through October 17, 2008, at a cost not to exceed \$290,500. Scientific Learning is the developer of Fast ForWord products and technology-based instructional tools that are geared toward cognitive skills development and are based on over 30 years of scientific research into the way the brain learns. Their products have proven to be effective reading intervention tools that accelerate the learning process.

This contract will include management, support and services for 40 school sites, 11 of which are Highways to Success schools. The support and services include certification training for District staff to build internal capacity to provide training and program management in subsequent years, modeling, and coaching for new District trainers, and 30 full days of comprehensive teacher training on the understanding and implementation of Fast ForWord products and technology-based tools.

The proposed contract with Scientific Learning was submitted for review to the Professional Services Contract Committee established by School Board Rule 6Gx13-3F-1.021 on September 27, 2007, and recommended that an exception to the rule regarding bids or Requests for Proposals be granted on the basis of sole source.

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As the contractual services agreement provides for certification of training of District staff to provide professional development and program management in subsequent years, this action will build capacity for supporting and sustaining professional development for the continued implementation of Fast ForWord. The funds for the contract are included in the General Funds of the 2007-2008 adopted budget, under the following structure: Fund 0100, Object 5310, Program 8947, Location 9702, Function 5102.

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

1. grant an exception pursuant to School Board Rule 6Gx13-3F-1.021, related to Requests for Proposals on the basis of Sole Source; and
2. negotiate and enter into a contractual services agreement between The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, and Scientific Learning to provide on-site Fast ForWord training and consulting services to 40 school sites, effective October 18, 2007, through October 17, 2008, at a cost not to exceed \$290,500.

LCR/FW/SG:jc