

School Improvement Zone
Geneva K. Woodard, Associate Superintendent

SUBJECT: AUTHORIZATION IS REQUESTED FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, THE FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES, AND THE ALGEBRA PROJECT TO ESTABLISH AND SUSTAIN THE FIRST ALGEBRA PROJECT SITES IN FLORIDA AT A COST TO THE DISTRICT NO GREATER THAN \$120,000 FOR THE 2007-08 SCHOOL YEAR

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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

Authorization is requested to enter into a contractual agreement that establishes a collaborative relationship among Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS); the Algebra Project, Inc., a non-profit corporation formed under the laws of the State of Massachusetts with its principal place of business at 99 Bishop Allen Drive, Cambridge, MA 02139; and the Florida International University Board of Trustees on behalf of the Center for Urban Education & Innovation, housed in the College of Education at Florida International University. This collaboration is meant to establish and sustain the first Algebra Project sites in Florida at Miami Edison and Miami Northwestern Senior High Schools for three years, terminating in August 2010. The cost to M-DCPS shall be no greater than \$120,000 for the 2007-08 school year. The agreement will be presented for renewal each year over the three-year period. Appropriations are included in the General Fund of the budget under Fund 0100 Function 6300 Program 7100 Object 5310 Location 9703.

The Algebra Project seeks to build the demand for math literacy in local sites across the country. AP's goal is to address the lack of economic access that faces children from communities of poor people and people of color. It aims to bring about an apparent change in the attitude of teachers and young people toward math learning and math achievement.

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This relationship will be managed by the School Improvement Zone, Curriculum and Instruction, and School Operations and supports the District's goal of ensuring achievement of high academic standards by all students.

The appropriation for this item is included in the General Fund of the 2007-08 adopted budget.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to enter into a contractual agreement with the Florida International University Board of Trustees, and the Algebra Project to establish Algebra Project sites at Miami Edison and Miami Northwestern senior high schools, in an amount not to exceed \$120,000 for the 2007-2008 school year.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Among

**Miami-Dade County Public Schools,
Miami Edison Senior High School,
Miami Northwestern Senior High School,
The Algebra Project, Inc.**

and

**The Florida International University Board of Trustees on behalf of the
Center for Urban Education & Innovation
at the College of Education of Florida International University**

Introduction

This memorandum establishes a collaborative relationship among Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS), the Algebra Project (AP), Inc., a non-profit corporation formed under the laws of the State of Massachusetts with its principal place of business at 99 Bishop Allen Drive, Cambridge, MA 02139, and the Florida International University Board of Trustees on behalf of the Center for Urban Education & Innovation (CUEI or Center) housed in the College of Education at Florida International University (FIU) with Miami Edison Senior High School and Miami Northwestern Senior high School. This collaboration is meant to establish and sustain the first Algebra Project sites in Florida for at least three years beginning on August 20, 2007 and terminating on August 19, 2010. It is anticipated that the funding for the three year project will be as set forth in the budget attached hereto as Exhibit "A." However, the amount of funding currently released for the project is only for the first year of the project from August 20, 2007 through August 19, 2008 (the "2007-2008 school year"). This agreement will be amended as each additional year of funding is released for each additional year of the project. Thus, the tasks which the parties are currently obligated to perform pursuant to this agreement are the tasks for the 2007-2008 school year. The parties will be obligated to perform tasks for the additional years as funding for those years is released via the above-stated amendments to this agreement.

Development of Algebra Project Sites in Miami

The Center at FIU, along with the Algebra Project, Inc., has initiated a collaborative mathematics teaching program led by Dr. Bob Moses of AP. In 2006-2007, Dr. Moses and Mario Eraso, a Ph.D. student at FIU, worked in the classroom with 23 Edison high school mathematics underachievers. In 2007-2008 school year, a teacher, Mr. Edward Rodriguez, will co-teach with Dr. Moses at Edison High School to facilitate the development of higher level mathematics for approximately 20 tenth grade students who are achieving at the lowest academic quartile. Subject to availability of funding as set forth in this Agreement, Mr. Rodriguez and Dr. Moses will follow these students through the 12th grade.

The Algebra Project seeks to build the demand for math literacy in local sites across the country. Its leadership views this focus as a continuation of the Civil Rights struggle in which transforming math education in our schools is as urgent in today's world as was winning the right to vote in the Jim Crow South in the early 60s. AP's goal is to address the lack of economic access that faces children from communities of poor people and people of color. It aims at bringing about a sea change in the attitude of teachers and young people toward math learning and math achievement. One example of this is happening today at Jackson, Mississippi's Lanier High School where large numbers of students are taking trigonometry and introductory engineering. Twenty three of the twenty-five AP graduates from Lanier High School in 2006 just successfully completed their 1st year of college.

The following is the context in which AP does its work:

- According to the Urban Institute, 50% of black ninth graders, 49% of Native Americans and 47% of Latinos/as do not graduate high school in four years.
- In some poor urban and rural schools high school drop out rates approach 80%.
- According to the National Assessment of Education Progress, 43% of black 12th graders and 58% of Latinos/as are testing at "below basic" In math

Algebra Project at Edison Senior High School

Responsibilities of the Algebra Project, Inc.

- The Algebra Project will provide the curriculum and pedagogy for excellent mathematics instruction;
- Dr. Bob Moses of the AP will teach high school mathematics in a team-teaching environment with a co-teacher, Mr. Edward Rodriguez, jointly hired by M-DCPS and AP.
- Teach no more than 20 students every day for a total of 90 minutes a day at each Miami site
- AP will provide the professional development for one co-teacher at Edison H. S.
- Dr. Moses and Mr. Edward Rodriguez will engage in planning and reflecting on the daily teaching practices, examining lessons learned, evaluating the progress of each student in the class. Mr. Edward Rodriguez will also perform duties as an AP teacher coach when needed for math teachers at Edison
- Present results of the year's progress with the cohort of AP students at Edison H.S. to university community and the Miami Dade County Public School community
- Dr. Moses and Mr. Rodriguez will be responsible for all curriculum and pedagogical decisions.

Responsibilities of the Center

- The Center will provide project oversight and coordination for the functioning of the AP project as set forth in this Agreement
- The Center will prepare the consulting agreements with Drs. Bowe and Dubinsky for their work as set forth in this Agreement
- The Center will prepare proposals to The Children's Trust and other external sponsors in an effort to seek funding for the Summer Program at FIU as described below in this Agreement
- The Center in conjunction with the Mathematics Education Program will assist in creating opportunities for Mr. Edward Rodriguez during his placement at Edison to present the results of his AP work at Edison & eventually Northwestern, once the AP project in Northwestern is established, by providing funds for Mr. Rodriguez to travel to at least one conference as well as other AP sites
- The Center and FIU College of Education (COE) will evaluate the progress of the AP program in Miami through graduate student research and the research of Dr. Joan Wynne
- Mr. Edward Rodriguez will work with Dr. Bob Moses to teach one class per day of high school students at Edison. Those same students will meet every day with Mr. Edward Rodriguez for instruction in mathematics. (a total of 90 minutes each school day)
- If agreed by the Edison administration, Mr. Edward Rodriguez will mentor other teachers at Edison who wish to learn the curriculum and pedagogy of the Algebra Project.

Responsibilities of Edison High School

- Schedule the cohort of AP students who will commit to learn mathematics for 90 minutes per day, five days a week, during the school year, for three years
- Provide classroom space for those students each day for 90 minutes during the school year each year.
- Any teacher at Edison H. S. who later becomes involved in the teaching of mathematics through the Algebra Project will be given time to engage in reflective practices during the school year as well as during the one-month professional development seminars offered by the Algebra Project during the summer.

Responsibilities of Miami-Dade County Public Schools

- MDCPS agrees to provide the funding for the 2007-2008 school year to FIU in the amount of : \$118,948.62 for payment of the expenses for the AP as set forth in the budget attached hereto as Exhibit "A"
- MDCPS will be responsible for the cost and scheduling of 5 mathematics field trips per school year for the Edison students in the AP program.
- MDCPS will be responsible for purchasing and providing the following mathematics materials to the students in the Edison AP program:
 1. flip charts 1, each for each student for 40 weeks each school year.
 2. supply markers for 40 week each school year

Plan to Develop Algebra Project Site at Miami Northwestern Senior High School

The relationship among AP, the Center and Edison H.S. began in 2006. Because Northwestern will be a newly developing relationship, a phased approach similar to Edison's AP partnership is desirable.

The funding provided pursuant to the budget attached hereto as Exhibit "A" provides funds for Phase I at Northwestern Senior High School for the 2007-2008 school year: Accordingly, the parties' obligations to perform tasks with reference to the program at Miami Northwestern Senior High School are limited to the tasks required for Phase I as set forth below. The proposed phases II and III are proposed and will be performed to the extent that additional funding for those phases is released and an amendment to this Agreement is executed to provide for the same.

Phase I. Training

- 1) Dr. Dubinsky will provide a mathematics professional development seminar for the mathematics teachers at Northwestern for 2 days/month for 10 months (Dr. Dubinsky will also work at Edison High School with the AP cohort on every visit to Miami.)
- 2) Northwestern High School personnel shall have the opportunity of consultation with Dr. Moses and CUEI staff to facilitate teacher training at Northwestern High School
- 3) Northwestern High School teachers shall have the opportunity to visit the functioning AP program at Edison
- 4) AP and the Northwestern High School administration shall select 2-4 teachers (the number will depend on the size of the program desired: 1 teacher for every 40-50 students in the program) from those in the professional development mathematics seminar for in-depth training, who would implement the AP at Northwestern under the tutelage of Dr. Moses
- 5) Dr. Greg Bowe, a Writing Circles expert, will meet with teachers at Northwestern High School to discuss a comprehensive language arts curriculum & pedagogy for Northwestern High School

Phase II. Planning –Contingent on additional funding

- 1) Determination of number of students to be served by AP at Northwestern
- 2) Identification of determined number of 8th grade students at the feeder schools who would participate in the AP program
- 3) Development of summer programs for these students
- 4) Planning to restructure the school day and teacher load so as to optimize instruction (teachers seeing no more than two-three classes of students per day in double blocks of mathematics instruction)
- 5) Developing other necessary interventions (reading, writing, academic support, counseling) for the selected students
- 6) Writing grants or otherwise identifying resources for the initiation of the program

Phase III. Program Implementation– To occur contingent on additional funding

- 1) Starting the program with selected students and trained teachers at Northwestern.

In order to initiate the program at Miami Northwestern Senior High School, it will be necessary to secure the following list of resources (others may be identified as the program unfolds):

Resources Needed for 2007-08 School Year:

Phase I. Training

- 1) Released time and/or payment for teachers to participate in on-going mathematics seminar
- 2) Funding for Dr. Dubinsky's time
- 3) Funding for consultative services with Dr. Moses, Dr. Bowe, and other CUEI staff
- 4) Stipends and travel for selected teachers to get in-depth training

Phase II. Planning

- 1) Released time and/or payment for teachers and other staff to participate in planning process with FIU and AP personnel

Phase III. Program Implementation

- 1) Funding for additional teachers so that AP teachers could teach a smaller number of classes
- 2) Funding for AP consultants
- 3) Funding for additional reading, writing, and counseling supports, as identified in the planning process
- 4) Funding for summer programs for students

Clauses

Requirements for Instructional Personnel

Any and all staff involved in the implementation of this project at the school-sites must abide by all of the School Board's stated personnel requirements (i.e. fingerprinting, drug testing, etc.)

Confidentiality of Student Records

AP and FIU understand and agree that they are subject to all federal and state laws and School Board rules relating to the confidentiality of student information. AP and FIU further agree to comply with the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA"). AP and FIU shall regard all student information as confidential and will not disclose the student information to any third party.

Indemnification

AP and FIU agree to indemnify, hold harmless and defend the School Board from and against any and all claims, suits, actions, damages, or causes of action arising out of the intentional or negligent acts of its employees or agents arising out of or in connection with the provisions of this agreement. FIU's indemnification shall be limited by §768.28, Florida Statutes and nothing herein shall constitute a waiver of any right or defense FIU may have under said statute.

The School Board recognizes its respective liability for certain tortious acts of its agents, officers, employees to the limits provided in Section 768.28, Florida Statutes, the State of Florida's partial waiver of sovereign immunity. This provision shall not be construed as a waiver of any right or defense that the School Board has under said statute.

Governing Law & Venue

This agreement shall be construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Florida. Any dispute with respect to this agreement is subject to the laws of Florida, venue in Miami-Dade County. Each party shall be responsible for its own attorneys' fees and costs incurred as a result of any action or proceeding under this agreement.

Termination

M-DCPS may terminate this Agreement, without cause, upon thirty (30) days' written notice to the other parties. In the event of termination, School Board shall be released from all further responsibilities under the agreement.

Patricia Alvarez
Director
Office of Sponsored Research

Louie Miron
Dean
College of Education/FIU

Lisa D. Delpit
Executive Director
Center for Urban Education & Innovation

Bob Moses
President, Founder
Algebra Project, Inc.

LaDon James
Chair of the Board
Algebra Project, Inc.

Charles Hankerson
Principal
Miami Northwestern Senior High School

Jean Teal
Principal
Miami Edison Senior High School

Rudolph F. Crew
Superintendent
Miami-Dade County Public Schools

Exhibit "A"

Budget for MDCPS Funding to FIU

The Algebra Project – Memorandum of Understanding: In Brief

The Algebra Project (AP), a program that seeks to build the demand for math literacy across the country, began at Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) in the 2006-07 school year at Miami Edison Senior with the administrative and financial support of Florida International University (FIU). AP plans to continue its efforts at Edison through the 2008-09 school year, and hopes to begin building a similar program this year at Miami Northwestern Senior that will run through 2009-10. This first year at Northwestern will be spent on Phase I – Training. Both of these efforts are contingent on support from M-DCPS, FIU and AP; this Memorandum of Understanding lays out the responsibilities of all parties involved.

Miami Edison Senior:

Resource	Responsibility	Cost to M-DCPS
Dr. Bob Moses (AP)	- Teach cohort of 20 11 th grade students for 90 minute a day - Offer PD to one co-teacher at Edison	None
Dr. Edward Rodriguez (AP)	- Co-teach cohort with Dr. Moses - AP teacher coach as needed for math teachers (incl. mentoring) - Present results at conferences and other AP sites	\$31,875 (50% of salary)
Dr. Joan Wynne (FIU)	- Evaluate the progress of AP in Miami	\$16,115 (10% of salary)
Graduate Student Assistance (FIU)	- Assist Dr. Wynne with program evaluation - Assist Dr. Louie Rodriguez with action research project	\$10,980
Field Trips	- M-DCPS will pay for and schedule 5 math-related field trips	Undefined
Mathematics Materials	- Flip charts and Markers - Graphing Calculators - Printing and reproduction costs	- Undefined - \$1,250 - \$165
Teacher Stipends & Travel	- 3 (of 5 total) teachers will participate in the four-week AP PD during the summer at \$3,000 per teacher - Travel costs for sessions will be \$2,100 per teacher	- \$9,000 - \$6,300
TOTAL		\$75,685

Miami Northwestern Senior: Phase I – Training ONLY

Resource	Responsibility	Cost to M-DCPS
Dr. Bob Moses (AP)	- Consult with Northwestern staff to facilitate teacher training	Undefined
Dr. Ed Dubinsky (consultant)	- Meet two days a month for 10 months during 2007-08 to learn the AP curriculum and pedagogy	\$21,000
Mathematics Materials	- Flip charts and Markers - Graphing Calculators - Printing and reproduction costs	- Undefined - \$1,250 - \$165
Teacher Stipends & Travel	- Release time to participate in ongoing mathematics seminar - 2 (of 5 total) teachers will participate in the four-week AP PD during the summer at \$3,000 per teacher - Travel costs for sessions will be \$2,100 per teacher	- Undefined - \$6,000 - \$4,200
TOTAL		\$32,615

Additional Factors:

- Indirect costs of 10% of the costs listed above are included in the budget:
Estimated Amount -- \$10,813.51

Rationale for Budget:

A. 1. Faculty/A&P/USPS salary

a. Dr. Joan Wynne, the Principal Investigator & Associate Director of the Center will devote 10% of her time during the school year to over-see the work of AP at the Edison and Northwestern sites. The cost is \$16,114.64 which includes fringe benefits.

b. Edward Rodriguez will be the certified teacher & teacher coach for the 2007-2008 school year. The cost for 50% of his time to provide services to MDCPS, including fringe benefits is \$31,875.00

B. 2. Graduate Students:

One graduate assistant will work with Dr. Wynne to gather and analyze data for the Algebra Project work at Edison for 2 semesters at a cost of \$10,980.30

C. 1. Educational and Lab Supplies

25 Graphing Calculators \$100 each for the use of the Edison cohort and the Northwestern cohort for a total cost of \$2500.00

C.12 Printing and reproduction costs are needed for student handouts and flyers to parents for \$165.18.

C. 13 Professional Fees/Consultants

a. Dr. Ed Dubinsky, Teacher Development Consultant, will meet once a month for 10 months of the 2007-2008 school year with Northwestern teachers and other teachers selected by MDCPS to learn the Algebra Project curriculum and pedagogy. Total cost of \$21,000.00

C. 16 Stipends

Stipends for 5 teachers at Edison and/or Northwestern who participate in the four-week AP professional development during the summer. The cost to MDCPS will be \$3000 per teacher for a total cost of \$15,000

C. 18. Travel – Domestic

Travel expenses for 5 MDCPS teachers to AP Professional Development workshops with research mathematicians in the summer for a cost of \$2100 per teacher, a total of \$10,500.

F. Indirect Costs – at a rate of 10% of the Total Direct Costs. Total is \$10,813.51

Total Cost of Project: \$118,948.62