Office of Superintendent of Schools   February 27, 2008
Board Meeting of March 12, 2008

Antoinette Dunbar, Deputy Superintendent
Curriculum and Instruction

SUBJECT: REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT TO
               ENTER INTO A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH THE DIVISION
               OF BLIND SERVICES, FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION,
               TO PROVIDE A COOPERATIVE SCHOOL PROGRAM FOR
               STUDENTS WHO ARE LOW VISION OR BLIND, EFFECTIVE JULY
               1, 2008, THROUGH JUNE 30, 2009

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

LINK TO DISTRICT
STRATEGIC PLAN: GENERAL OPERATIONS

Authorization is requested for the Superintendent to enter into a cooperative agreement
with the Division of Blind Services, Florida Department of Education, to provide a
cooperative school program for students who are low vision or blind, effective July 1, 2008-
June 30, 2009. This cooperative agreement has been in effect since 1967.

The Division of Blind Services provides: medical, psychological, and psychiatric
evaluations; vocational placement; post-secondary services; and personal management
skills to approximately 191 students who are low vision or blind in Miami-Dade County
Public Schools. These services may be provided at any time during the school year, either
in the student's home or in a school, as mutually agreed upon by personnel from the
District and the Division of Blind Services.

This program is evaluated by administrative and support staff from the Division of Special
Education. The evaluation includes site visits and monitoring student records and program
delivery models.

The Director of the Division of Blind Services is Ms. Gail Sterner.

There is no exchange of funds.

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

1. enter into a cooperative agreement with the Division of Blind Services, Florida Department of Education, to provide a cooperative school program for students who are low vision or blind, effective July 1, 2008, through June 30, 2009; and

2. extend the cooperative agreement for a maximum of two additional one-year periods

There is no exchange of funds.

LCR/WG:jf