

Antoinette Dunbar, Deputy Superintendent
Curriculum and Instruction

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT TO ENTER INTO A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH EARLY STEPS (FORMERLY EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAMS), PART C, TO PROVIDE SERVICES TO CHILDREN AGES BIRTH TO THREE, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2008, THROUGH JUNE 30, 2009

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

LINK TO DISTRICT

STRATEGIC PLAN: IMPROVE AND EXPAND CURRENT CURRICULUM

Authorization is requested for the Superintendent to enter into a cooperative agreement with Early Steps (formerly Early Intervention Programs), Part C, to provide services to children ages birth to three. This cooperative agreement has been in effect since 1994.

Early Steps is the result of the enactment of an amendment to the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) of 1986. This amendment differs from its companion amendment, Part B, in that Part B did not mandate services to children below the age of three. Part C, however, entitles children from the ages of birth to three to services, if it is determined that these children have a developmental delay or an established condition that has a high probability of resulting in a disability or delay. This cooperative agreement between Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) and Early Steps, Part C, is proposed to meet the state level agreement of the Part C Implementation Plan.

Early Steps will be responsible for service coordination, multidisciplinary team evaluations of students below 36 months of age, and providing services identified on the Individualized Family Support Plans (IFSP). As students approach their third birthday, M-DCPS will provide procedures for referrals, evaluations, participation in the development of the IFSPs, and transition into prekindergarten programs.

There is no exchange of funds.

C-17

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

1. enter into a cooperative agreement with Early Steps (formerly Early Intervention Programs), Part C, to provide services to children ages birth to three, effective July 1, 2008, through June 30, 2009; and
2. extend the cooperative agreement for up to two additional one-year periods.

There is no exchange of funds.

LCR/WG/jdk