

Antoinette Dunbar, Deputy Superintendent  
Curriculum and Instruction

**SUBJECT: REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT TO ENTER INTO A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF MIAMI TO FACILITATE THE OPERATION OF A PROJECT SEARCH SCHOOL-TO-WORK PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2008, THROUGH JUNE 30, 2009**

**COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

**LINK TO DISTRICT STRATEGIC PLAN: DEVELOP OUR STUDENTS SO THAT THEY ARE ABLE TO SUCCESSFULLY COMPETE IN THE GLOBAL ECONOMY**

Authorization is requested for the Superintendent to enter into a cooperative agreement with the City of Miami to facilitate the operation of a Project SEARCH school-to-work program for students with disabilities, effective July 1, 2008, through June 30, 2009. This is a new cooperative agreement.

Project SEARCH is a one year, full-time, high school transition program which provides training and education leading to employment for students with disabilities pursuing a special diploma who have met all graduation requirements and have employment as their transition goal. The program is designed for 12 students, age 18 – 22, and involves total immersion in non-paid work training at the City of Miami Riverside Center, located at 444 S.W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue Miami, FL 33130. Students will receive course credits in employability skills while participating in this teacher-directed field experience.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) will provide an FTE generated teacher and paraprofessional, and transportation. The City of Miami, along with its partners, will provide the worksite, job coach services, support from its employees at the training site, and a realistic opportunity for employment following the training year.

On December 21, 2007, the City of Miami Collaborative which includes M-DCPS, received a grant in the amount of \$10,000 to initiate this program. The grant also includes the support of personnel from the Florida Developmental Disabilities Council, Inc.

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This program will be 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.

There is no exchange of funds.

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

1. enter into a cooperative agreement with the City of Miami to facilitate the operation of a Project SEARCH school-to-work program for students with disabilities, effective July 1, 2008, through June 30, 2009; and
2. extend the cooperative agreement for a maximum of two additional one-year periods.

LCR/WG/las