

Antoinette Dunbar, Deputy Superintendent
Curriculum and Instruction

SUBJECT: REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT TO AMEND EXISTING CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENTS WITH SEVEN INTERPRETER OR CAPTION/COMPUTER-ASSISTED REALTIME TRANSCRIPTION (CART) REFERRAL SERVICE AGENCIES TO PROVIDE AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETER OR CAPTION/CART SERVICES FOR DEAF AND HARD-OF-HEARING STUDENTS, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$487,000, EFFECTIVE APRIL 17, 2008, THROUGH JUNE 30, 2008

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

**LINK TO DISTRICT
STRATEGIC PLAN: GENERAL OPERATIONS**

Authorization is requested to amend existing contractual agreements with seven Interpreter or Caption/Computer-Assisted Realtime Transcription (CART) referral service agencies. Interpreter referral service agencies serving South Florida are:

- Accessible Communication for the Deaf, Inc.
- Carmazzi of Florida, Inc.
- CODA Link, Inc.
- Deaf Services Bureau, Inc.
- Innovative Communication Services for the Deaf, LLC
- Florida Realtime Reporting Services, Inc.
- Nationwide Interpreter Resource, Inc.

On April 18, 2007, the School Board approved contractual agreements for these agencies to provide services for students in programs for deaf and hard-of-hearing, at an hourly rate of \$65 to \$125, in an amount not to exceed \$1,250,000. The range of these hourly rates was based on competitive rates in the profession at that time and the levels of experience of the interpreters and captionists/CART providers. Due to an increase in the number of requests for interpretation services and the critical shortage of interpreters and captionists/CART providers, a need for additional funds exists. These contractual agreements have been in effect since May 2003.

These additional funds, effective April 17, 2008, through June 30, 2008, are needed to provide deaf and hard-of-hearing students with an education that is rich in communication so that they may achieve their academic, social, emotional, and vocational potential in adulthood. These agencies have specific expertise to fulfill this critical need.

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The President of Accessible Communication for the Deaf, Inc., is Ms. Lisa Gauntlett; the President of Carmazzi of Florida, Inc., is Mr. James Carmazzi; the President of CODA Link, Inc., is Ms. Donna Fernandez; the Acting Executive Director of Deaf Services Bureau, Inc., is Dr. Robert Fifer; the President of Florida Realtime Reporting Services, Inc., is Ms. Tanya English; the Executive Director/Interpreter Coordinator of Innovative Communication Services for the Deaf, LLC, is Mr. Lazaro Fernandez; and the President of Nationwide Interpreter Resource, Inc., is Ms. June Backer.

The appropriation for this item is included in the Other Federal Programs Fund (Contracted Programs Fund) under Fund 0420, Function 5200, Program 4568, Object 5310, Location 9615 of the 2007-2008 Adopted Budget.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to amend existing contractual agreements with Accessible Communication for the Deaf, Inc.; Carmazzi of Florida, Inc.; CODA Link, Inc.; Deaf Services Bureau, Inc.; Florida Realtime Reporting Services, Inc.; Innovative Communication Services for the Deaf, LLC; and Nationwide Interpreter Resource, Inc., to provide American Sign Language Interpreter or Caption/Computer Assisted Realtime Transcription (CART) services for deaf and hard-of-hearing students, in an amount not to exceed \$487,000, effective April 17, 2008, through June 30, 2008.

The appropriation for this item is included in the Other Federal Programs Fund (Contracted Programs Fund) of the 2007-2008 Adopted Budget.

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