

Antoinette P. Dunbar, Deputy Superintendent
Curriculum and Instruction

**SUBJECT: REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT TO
IMPLEMENT THE VOLUNTARY PREKINDERGARTEN SUMMER
PROGRAM EFFECTIVE JUNE 9, 2008, THROUGH JULY 30, 2008**

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

**LINK TO DISTRICT
STRATEGIC PLAN: IMPROVE AND EXPAND CURRENT CURRICULUM**

In 2002, the Florida Legislature enacted HB 1A, entitled the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education (VPK) Program. Its intent is to provide a high quality prekindergarten learning opportunity for every four-year-old in the state. Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) is currently providing VPK classes for 4,832 students at 197 elementary schools. In addition, Florida State Statute 1002.61 requires public school districts to offer a 300-hour Summer VPK Program to eligible children who did not receive instructional services during the regular school year.

The Summer VPK Program will consist of six (6) hours of high-quality instruction per day for 36 days. The program will take place from June 9, 2008, through July 30, 2008. Students will be provided with developmentally appropriate activities that incorporate family literacy, physical development, and exposure to the arts.

Parents must obtain a Certificate of Eligibility (COE) at locations designated by the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe (ELCM-D/M) to complete the registration process. Each school site will be selected by School Operations in conjunction with the Division of Early Childhood Programs. Classes will be established at selected summer school sites. The Summer VPK Program will serve an estimated 250 students.

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Parents will be notified of the availability of this program through extensive marketing by the ELCM-D/M and fliers provided to M-DCPS school sites by the Division of Early Childhood Programs. All VPK students will be assessed at the beginning of the 2008-2009 school year using the Florida Kindergarten Readiness Screener (FLKRS).

The Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Summer Program will provide the funding for teachers to receive professional development activities prior to the beginning of the summer program. Best practices in early childhood education for families will be provided by Family Literacy Nights activities on four (4) week nights as well as with Family Literacy At-Home Packets, also funded through the VPK Summer Program. A life skills strand will be offered at each site on four (4) Saturdays. The VPK Summer Program is funded by the Agency for Workforce Innovation through the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe at no cost to the District.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to implement the Voluntary Prekindergarten Summer Program as mandated by Florida State Statute 1002.61; from June 9, 2008, through July 30, 2008, for an estimated 250 students.

No local funds are required.

AD/CJ/NS:lh