

Milagros R. Fornell, Associate Superintendent  
Curriculum and Instruction

**SUBJECT:                   REQUEST THE SCHOOL BOARD TO AUTHORIZE THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS TO DEVELOP AND SUBMIT THE DISTRICT'S NEW MASTER PLAN FOR IN-SERVICE EDUCATION (2009-2014) TO THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

**COMMITTEE:               SCHOOL SUPPORT AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

**LINK TO DISTRICT STRATEGIC PLAN:       DEVELOP AND RETAIN HIGH-PERFORMING AND MOTIVATED FACULTY AND STAFF**

In accordance with State Board Rule 6A-5.071, Florida Administrative Code (FAC), each district school board is required to develop and maintain an In-service Education and Training Program for all employees that is planned, developed and administered in accordance with the rules of the Florida State Board of Education. Additionally, the state requires that a new plan be developed and approved by the local school board every five years before submission to the Florida Department of Education. This Master In-service Plan links professional development activities with the District's strategic goals, instructional personnel needs as determined by annual assessment surveys, school improvement plans, annual school reports, student achievement data, and performance appraisal data for teachers and administrators.

The proposed plan reflects a compilation of components that guide professional development offerings throughout the District. The Plan outlines the general and specific objectives of each professional learning activity and specifies the follow-up and evaluation methods that gauge the application and impact of the professional development on personnel and the students or individuals they serve.

The proposed plan provides an avenue for teachers, instructional personnel, and administrators to acquire new skills, stay informed of national trends in education reform, and renew their professional certificates without incurring any costs for taking college/university level courses. There is also an added benefit to both instructional personnel and District: teachers are able to add valuable endorsements to their existing professional certificates without cost and at the same time, the District is increasing its pool of teachers who are qualified to provide instruction in many of the much-needed areas. Those areas include reading, ESOL, gifted and autism education.

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Since the beginning of the current school year: 5,181 teachers have taken or are now enrolled in 183 endorsement classes, each of which is equivalent to a three-credit college/university course, at no cost to the individual.

The District's current Master Plan for In-service Education will expire on June 30, 2009. In order to maintain continuous service to educators and be in compliance with State Board Rule 6A-5.071, (FAC), this item requests authorization for the Superintendent of Schools to submit the District's new Master Plan for In-service Education for the five-year period of July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2014, to the Florida Department of Education.

An indexed listing of the new components is included in the material forwarded separately to the School Board. Copies are also available on file in the Office of the Recording Secretary to the Board and the Citizen Information Center.

There is no cost to the District associated with this item.

**RECOMMENDED:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent of Schools to develop and submit the District's new Master Plan for In-service Education (2009-2014) to the Florida Department of Education.

MF:hf