

Milagros R. Fornell, Associate Superintendent
Curriculum and Instruction

**SUBJECT: REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT OF
SCHOOLS TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT
WITH EMPOWER U TO PROVIDE HIV/STD COUNSELING,
TESTING AND SUPPORT SERVICES WITHIN THE MIAMI
CENTRAL SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL FEEDER PATTERN, IN AN
AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$40,000, EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER
20, 2009, THROUGH OCTOBER 31, 2010**

**COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT**

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

Authorization is requested to allow the Superintendent of Schools to enter into a contractual agreement with Empower U (EU) to provide Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)/Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD) counseling, testing, and support related services for students and families within the Miami Central Senior High School Feeder Pattern.

This is the fourth year of a five year federal grant titled Minority Substance Abuse HIV and Hepatitis C Strategic Framework issued through the Department of Health and Human Services. In order to decrease the number of students infected and affected by STD's including HIV, the District in a contractual partnership with Empower U, will provide specialized services as required in the grant to students and families in the Miami Central Senior High School Feeder Pattern. This particular area has the highest HIV incidence rate in Miami-Dade County.

Empower U is licensed to provide the requested services while following the Health Department's protocol regarding disclosure of information. EU will provide testing for HIV, Chlamydia and Gonorrhea twice a month in its mobile testing lab. All tests will be provided by certified HIV/STD testing counselors in a confidential setting and will include pre and post-test counseling. To encourage students to visit the mobile unit, EU will provide incentives including but not limited to: music downloads, cell phone credits, and movie tickets.

The District's goals are to increase awareness, provide pertinent information to students and families regarding the transmission of HIV/STD's, and provide treatment options for those who are infected. EU will make every effort to ensure that those students who test positive are referred to the appropriate health care provider for follow-up and treatment.

Faculty reviews, site visits and program delivery models by the Miami-Dade County Health Department found the program to be effective and in compliance with State of Florida Public Health Standards.

The Professional Services Contract Committee established by School Board Rule 6Gx13-3F-1021, Professional Services Contracts, reviewed this contract on September 24, 2009, and recommended that an exception to the School Board Rule regarding bids or Request for Proposals (RFP) be granted as this agency has specific expertise in providing HIV counseling and testing.

There is no cost to the District for these services. Services will be paid through the Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Minority Substance Abuse, HIV and Hepatitis C Strategic Framework Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Grant using the following budget structure: Fund 0420; Object 5310; Program 4918; Location 9721; Function 5100.

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

1. enter into a contractual agreement with Empower U to provide HIV/STD counseling, testing and support related services within the Miami Central Senior High School Feeder Pattern, in an amount not to exceed \$40,000, effective November 20, 2009, through October 31, 2010;
2. grant an exception to School Board Rule 6Gx13- 3F- 1.021 as Empower U has specific expertise in providing HIV counseling and testing.