

Office of School Board Attorney  
Walter J. Harvey, School Board Attorney

**SUBJECT:       REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION TO ENGAGE OUTSIDE LEGAL  
                  COUNSEL**

**COMMITTEE:   SCHOOL SUPPORT ACCOUNTABILITY**

**LINK TO  
STRATEGIC  
FRAMEWORK: FINANCIAL EFFICIENCY/STABILITY**

The School Board Attorney requests that the School Board authorize the Board Attorney to enter into contract for workers' compensation, tort liability, and construction legal services with the law firms of Miller, Kagan, Rodriguez, & Silver, P.L. and Cole, Scott, & Kissane, P.A. to represent and defend the School Board of Miami-Dade County in legal proceedings at both the trial and appellate levels and to provide workers' compensation legal counsel and advice as may be required.

Miller, Kagan, Rodriguez, & Silver, P.L., is a Miami-Dade County based state-wide law firm with over 50 years of experience representing employers and insurers in the defense of workers' compensation claims. Miller, Kagan, Rodriguez, and Silver, P.L. also represents several school boards and other public entities throughout the State of Florida in the area of worker's compensation. The firm of Miller, Kagan, Rodriguez, & Silver, P.L., will be compensated at a blended rate of \$120 per hour for partners and associates.

Cole, Scott, and Kissane, P.A., is a Miami-Dade County based and AV rated firm specializing in multiple and highly sophisticated practice areas, including tort liability and construction with an emphasis on civil trial work. CSK consists of approximately 170 attorneys, 30 paralegals/nurses, professional litigation managers and information systems personnel. The firm of Cole, Scott & Kissane, P.A., will be compensated at the rate of \$190 per hour for partners, \$155 per hour for associates, and \$90 per hour for paralegals on tort related cases and \$295 per hour for partners, \$225 per hour for associates, and \$75 per hour for paralegals on construction related cases.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Board Attorney to enter into a contract with Miller, Kagan, Rodriguez, & Silver, P.L., to represent The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida in worker's compensation cases. The firm of Miller, Kagan, Rodriguez, & Silver, P.L., will be compensated at a blended rate of \$120 per hour for partners and associates.
2. That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Board Attorney to enter in a contract with Cole, Scott & Kissane, P.A. to represent The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida in tort liability and construction related cases. The firm of Cole, Scott & Kissane, P.A. will be compensated at the rate of \$190 per hour for partners, \$155 per hour for associates, and \$90 per hour for paralegals on tort related cases and \$295 per hour for partners, \$225 per hour for associates, and \$75 per hour for paralegals on construction related cases.