

Alberto M. Carvalho, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: REVISIONS TO DISTRICT PURCHASING PROCEDURES TO PROMOTE EQUALITY OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINORITY AND WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESS ENTERPRISES, AS PART OF THE SUPERINTENDENT'S ECONOMIC EQUITY & EMPOWERMENT INITIATIVE

COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, EFFICIENCY & GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

LINK TO STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK: STUDENT, PARENT & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) is committed to constantly refining our purchasing processes and procedures in order to enable minority and women-owned business enterprises (M/WBE) to participate in School Board purchases at a level which is representative of their availability in the industry and within the local community. This administration fully supports all efforts to develop and strengthen minority and women-owned businesses, as they are an integral component of the economic stability and long term health of the community we serve.

Therefore, as of July 1, 2011, the effective date of the newly adopted School Board Policies, this District substantially lowered the thresholds for school site purchases which require written quotes. The new School Board Policy 6610 – Internal Accounts E. 2. specifies that purchases of \$1,000.00 or more, but less than \$50,000.00, now require at least three (3) written quotes to be solicited from vendors, of which at least one must be a certified M/WBE. Principals of school sites will be required to maintain documentation of these quotes and they will be subject to audit through our Internal Funds audit process. This policy applies to all purchases which are covered by internal funds accounts regulations, including credit card purchases which exceed the \$1,000 threshold, unless excluded by Board Policy or statute.

Building upon this policy adopted by the Board, and to further promote equality of economic opportunities for MWBEs and eliminate barriers to their participation in District business opportunities, staff has been directed to revise our internal procurement procedures (Procedure 4-7), as authorized under School Board Policy 6320 - Purchasing, to require that all shopping cart orders between \$3,000 and \$50,000, be subject to competition of at least three quotes, including at least one M/WBE vendor.

In addition to policy changes referenced here, the M-DCPS Office of Economic Opportunity has been established to assist and educate local M/WBE firms regarding the process to become a certified vendor and to do business with the District. Additionally, in the coming months staff will continue to work with the Minority Business Economic Advisory Committee and key community representatives to further improve our policies and practices as it relates to ensuring fair and equitable access to M-DCPS business opportunities.

A copy of the revised Procurement Procedure 4-7, referenced above, will be provided to the Board under separate cover.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida receive information regarding revisions to District purchasing procedures to promote equality of economic opportunities for minority and women-owned business enterprises, as part of the Superintendent's Economic Equity & Empowerment Initiative.