

Mercedes Toural, Chief Education Officer  
and Deputy Superintendent of Schools

**SUBJECT:           REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT WITH THE CHARTER SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY CENTER AT FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY, TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA, FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF AN EVALUATION PLAN**

**COMMITTEE:       EDUCATION AND SCHOOL OPERATIONS**

At the Board meeting of June 18, 2003, the School Board approved agenda item B-65 and authorized the Superintendent to accept a grant award under the Voluntary Public School Choice Mentor Project, titled Public School Choice Tool Kit (PSCTK) in the amount of \$150,000. The grant activities were designed to enhance the availability of information, resources, and professional development necessary for implementation of quality school choice programs in Florida. Critical to the success and continuation of the project will be a comprehensive evaluation of its effectiveness.

As specified in the initial grant proposal submitted by Miami-Dade County Public Schools, the PSCTK grant established a collaboration with the Charter School Accountability Center at Florida State University. The amount of \$25,000 was budgeted to contract with the Charter School Accountability Center for the development and implementation of an evaluation plan to strengthen the accountability of charter schools and to assess the effectiveness of grant activities. The contract will expire on February 20, 2004, to coincide with the final date to expend the grant funds.

The appropriation for this item is included in the Other Federal Programs (Contracted Programs Fund) of the 2003-2004 Adopted Budget under Fund 0420, Function 6400, Program 3247, Object 5310, and Location 9610.

The Professional Services Contract Committee established by School Board Rule 6Gx13-3F-1.021 reviewed the contractual agreement on December 11, 2003, and recommended that an exception to the rule regarding bids or Request for Proposals be granted because the institution is a sole-source provider in this area.

Mr. Kirby W. Kemper, Vice-President of Research at Florida State University, will be the signatory on this contract.

No local funds are required.

**B-10**

**RECOMMENDED:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida:

1. authorize the Superintendent to enter into a contractual agreement with the Charter School Accountability Center at Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida, in the amount of \$25,000, from January 15, 2004 to February 20, 2004, to provide and implement an evaluation plan to assess the effectiveness of the Public School Choice Tool Kit under the Voluntary Public School Choice Mentor Project; and
2. grant an exception to School Board Rule 6Gx13- 3F-1.021.

The appropriation for this item is included in the Other Federal Programs (Contracted Programs Fund) of the 2003-2004 Adopted Budget.

No local funds are required.

RKF/MB/CR:ad