

Office of Superintendent of Schools  
Board Meeting of January 13, 1999

December 16, 1998

Education

Joseph H. Mathos, Deputy Superintendent

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND BOSTON COLLEGE IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$75,000 FOR THE THIRD INTERNATIONAL MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE STUDY-REPLICATION BENCHMARKING ASSESSMENT TO BE ADMINISTERED IN THE SPRING OF 1999 FOR EIGHTH GRADE SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS**

**STRATEGIC PLANNING GOALS: II - STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT/PREPARATION FOR POST SECONDARY EXPERIENCES  
VI - EFFECTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT**

The United States Department of Education has awarded the Third International Mathematics and Science Study Replication (TIMSS-R) benchmarking assessment to Boston College. The United States Secretary of Education, Richard Riley, has requested that Miami-Dade County Public Schools participate in this benchmarking process. The process involves testing approximately 1,000 eighth grade students in mathematics and science. The results of the assessment will include detailed information on student achievement in mathematics and science overall, as well as, more specific content areas such as algebra and the physical sciences. These results will be compared directly with those of other countries who have agreed to participate in the TIMSS-R. The results can also be compared to and correlated with the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) and the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). The cost to participate will not exceed \$75,000.

The appropriation for this item is included in the Contracted Programs Fund of the 1998-99 Adopted Budget under Fund 0420, Function 6400, Program 3905, Object 5390, Location 9628.

The TIMSS-R benchmarking assessment is conducted by Boston College as selected by the United States Department of Education. Therefore, the contract being recommended here does not require submission to the Professional Services Contract Committee for a waiver from School Board Rule 6Gx13- 3F-1.021.

**RECOMMENDED:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to enter into a contractual agreement with Boston College in an amount not to exceed \$75,000 for the purpose of conducting the TIMSS-R benchmarking assessment in Miami-Dade County Public Schools in the Spring of 1999, for approximately 1,000 eighth grade students.

The appropriation for this item is included in the Contracted Programs Fund of the 1998-99 Adopted Budget.

JHM/gl