

Education
Joseph H. Mathos, Deputy Superintendent

SUBJECT: AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI TO COVER PARTIAL TUITION COSTS FOR TEACHERS SELECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE READING/LEARNING DISABILITIES MASTER'S OR SPECIALIST DEGREE PROGRAM FOR A TOTAL COST NOT TO EXCEED \$113,850, FROM AUGUST 25, 1999 THROUGH AUGUST 2, 2000

**STRATEGIC PLANNING GOALS: III - READING/LANGUAGE ARTS
VIII - PROFESSIONAL STAFF AND PRACTICES**

The Comprehensive Reading Plan includes partial funding for a master's or specialist degree at the University of Miami leading toward certification in Reading/Learning Disabilities (L.D.). This degree was developed in consultation with the Division of Language Arts/Reading of Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS). Inasmuch as University of Miami Reading/Learning Disabilities (L.D.) program is an integral part of the staff development activities of the Comprehensive Reading Plan, the evaluation of the effectiveness of the plan includes this program.

Information related to the master's or specialist program was disseminated to all schools, including application requirements, graduate school entrance requirements and funding arrangements. The per person cost to the district for each course is \$414. In addition, participating teachers will have to pay approximately \$420 per course to cover the cost of the University of Miami graduate courses. Special consideration has been given to teachers teaching at schools with low reading achievement levels.

This contractual agreement will cover tuition costs for 55 teachers as follows:

$$55 \text{ teachers} \times 5 \text{ courses} \times \$414 = \$113,850$$

The total cost of this contractual agreement will not exceed \$113,850. This contract will consist of multiple partial payments to cover the partial tuition cost of the different University of Miami registration cycles through August 2, 2000.

The Comprehensive Reading Plan, as approved by the School Board at its meeting of January 14, 1998, included the University of Miami as the collaborative agency to provide the Reading/L.D. master's/specialist degree program. 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.

The appropriation for this item will be included under Fund 0100, Object 5290, Location 9608, Program 9000, Function 5101, in the General Fund of the 1999-2000 Tentative Budget to be recommended for adoption on July 26, 1999.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to enter into a contractual agreement with the University of Miami, from August 25, 1999 through August 2, 2000, to cover partial costs for teachers selected to participate in the Reading/Learning Disabilities Master's or Specialist Degree program, in an amount not to exceed \$113,850.

The appropriation for this item will be included in the General Fund of the 1999-2000 Tentative Budget to be recommended for adoption on July 26, 1999.