

Education

Joseph H. Mathos, Deputy Superintendent

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$82,000 FROM THE "TAKE STOCK IN CHILDREN" FOUNDATION, TO DEFRAY THE COSTS OF HIRING TWO MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS EDUCATIONAL SPECIALISTS FOR THE MONITORING OF 293 POTENTIAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

**STRATEGIC PLANNING GOALS: II - STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT/PREPARATION FOR POST SECONDARY EXPERIENCES
IX - COMMUNITY/HOME/PARENT/SCHOOL/ BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS**

Authorization is sought to accept funds in the amount of \$82,000 from the "Take Stock in Children" Foundation (TSIC), a nonprofit organization which provides college scholarships to at-risk children in the Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) and across the State of Florida. The funds are targeted specifically to defray the costs of hiring two M-DCPS educational specialists for the monitoring of students who are scholarship recipients. TSIC has provided over \$18 million statewide and \$2 million to M-DCPS in scholarships since its inception.

Currently, 201 M-DCPS students have received college scholarships. Ninety-two students will be added during the 1999-2000 school year, for a total of 293 children. Criteria for eligibility include at-risk profiles, together with pledges from the enrollees that they will remain drug-free and have no involvement in criminal activities. If the students do not live up to the standards of TSIC, they forfeit their opportunities to receive college scholarships. Students are selected for participation in TSIC by school-site administrators, counselors, teachers, community college personnel and TSIC staff.

TSIC is offering the above-mentioned funds to defray the costs of educational specialists, who will monitor M-DCPS as a "Take Stock" Student Advocate and Mentor Coordinator respectively. The monies are designated to cover the basic salaries of these two positions. The appropriation for the fringe benefits of the two salaries will be included 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:

1. accept funds in the amount of \$82,000 from the "Take Stock in Children" Foundation; and
2. allocate two educational specialist positions for the purpose of monitoring the program.

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

NJP:mjc