

School Operations
Eddie T. Pearson, Deputy Superintendent

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION FOR MIAMI-DADE COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO HOST THE EIGHTH ANNUAL
MICROSOCIETY TRAINING CONFERENCE, JULY 16-20, 2000**

Authorization is requested for Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) to host the Eighth Annual MicroSociety Training Conference, to be held July 16-20, 2000. The venues for the conference will be MAST Academy, Citrus Grove Elementary School, and Citrus Grove Middle School. Approximately 400 participants from across the nation are expected to attend this landmark event.

The MicroSociety Program is a nationally recognized initiative which offers a school-based version of "real world" issues. By providing a microcosm of society within the school site, the MicroSociety Program instills responsibility and ethical training in students deemed at risk of dropping out of school. At each site where the program is implemented, the miniature society established has its own government, laws, tax system, and bank. By participating in this innovative program, students learn to take responsibility for their education through commitment to and participation in program activities.

Cited by First Lady Hillary Clinton as a program of excellence, the Eighth Annual MicroSociety Training Conference will attract local and national participation. The event will begin with a reception at MAST Academy on Sunday, July 16, 2000, from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. On the following days, July 17-20, 2000, participants will begin the day at Citrus Grove Middle School for a general morning meeting. Breakout sessions will follow at Citrus Grove Elementary School from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

The cost of the opening reception will be underwritten by contributions from selected Dade Partners. All members of the planning committee, approximately 10 to 12 schools, will be able to attend the sessions free of charge. The cost to non-Miami-Dade County Public Schools participants will be approximately \$350, a fee set by MicroSociety.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to approve the Eighth Annual MicroSociety Training Conference venues of MAST Academy, Citrus Grove Elementary School, and Citrus Grove Middle School.

ETP:tb