

Education  
Joseph H. Mathos, Deputy Superintendent

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION TO ISSUE A REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS/AGENCIES TO PROVIDE COUNSELING SERVICES IN 19 PROGRAMS FOR EMOTIONALLY HANDICAPPED STUDENTS, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$560,250, FROM JULY 1, 2000 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2001**

Authorization is requested to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for mental health professionals/agencies to provide counseling services in 19 programs for emotionally handicapped (EH) students. Miami-Dade County Public Schools has been providing counseling services for EH students through professional services contracts since 1994. These services include individual and group counseling, parent and/or teacher consultation, and record keeping.

Contracts for the 19 programs, at 19 school sites, in an amount not to exceed \$560,250, will be developed to provide services from July 1, 2000 through June 30, 2001. A review of all contracts will take place prior to the end of the 2000-2001 fiscal year. Pending funding availability, approval will be requested to extend contracts which have been satisfactorily completed for up to two additional one-year periods.

The selection will be made by a committee on the basis of several factors including qualifications, ability to provide bilingual services, and fee. The proposed members of the selection committee are:

- a region director for Exceptional Student Education (ESE) or designee
- a supervisor for the Division of ESE
- the supervisor of Psychological Services
- a representative from the Superintendent's District Advisory Panel for ESE
- a representative from the Division of Business Development and Assistance
- a representative from the Bureau of Procurement and Materials Management
- a representative from a school receiving contracted counseling services
- a representative from United Teachers of Dade

The estimated timeline for implementation is as follows:

Procurement Contract Review Committee .....	March 09, 2000
Request Board approval to issue RFP and approval of Selection Committee .....	March 15, 2000
Mailing of RFP .....	March 24, 2000
Opening of Proposals .....	April 25, 2000
Evaluations completed by Selection Committee .....	April 27, 2000
Contract Award .....	June 21, 2000

A copy of the RFP will be provided to Board Members under separate cover, and will be available for inspection by the public in the Office of Board Recording Secretary and the Citizen Information Center.

The appropriations for this item will be included in the 2000-2001 Tentative Budget to be recommended for adoption in July 2000 under Fund 0100, Function 4217, Program 6840, Object 5310, Location 9731.

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

1. authorize the Superintendent to issue a Request for Proposals for mental health professionals/agencies to provide counseling services in 19 programs for emotionally handicapped students, in an amount not to exceed \$560,250, from July 1, 2000 through June 30, 2001; and
2. approve the selection committee to evaluate proposals submitted.

The appropriation for this item will be included in the 2000-2001 Tentative Budget to be recommended for adoption in July 2000.

RKF/gb