

Education
Joseph H. Mathos, Deputy Superintendent

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT TO ESTABLISH A BIOMEDICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL AGRICULTURE TECHNOLOGY MAGNET PROGRAM AT JOHN F. KENNEDY MIDDLE SCHOOL BEGINNING IN THE 2000-2001 SCHOOL YEAR

John F. Kennedy Middle School has piloted a unique Biomedical and Environmental Agriculture Technology (BEAT) program for interested and highly motivated students. The program aims to provide a challenging science program for students residing within the school's attendance boundary. Since the inception of the BEAT program during the 1999-2000 school year, it has captured the interest of the community. The community supports the development of a complete program that would prepare middle school students to continue in the similarly-themed magnet program at North Miami Beach Senior High School. On February 24, 2000, the proposed Biomedical and Environment Agriculture Technology (BEAT) magnet program at John F. Kennedy Middle School was reviewed and supported by the Schools of Choice Advisory Committee (SCAC).

At this time, authorization is requested to establish a Biomedical and Environmental Agriculture Technology magnet program at John F. Kennedy Middle School beginning in the 2000-2001 school year. If approved, the magnet program will:

- increase opportunities for students from both within and outside of the school's attendance boundary to participate in the BEAT program;
- prepare students for participation in the Biomedical and Environmental Advancement Magnet (BEAM) at North Miami Beach Senior High School;
- positively impact the racial balance at John F. Kennedy Middle School;
- serve as a model demonstration laboratory school to enhance district professional development activities and to develop/modify Biomedical and Environmental Agriculture Technology curricular models;
- provide a unique educational opportunity to an ethnically diverse student population;
- respond to the requests of the community for a better prepared workforce; and
- help fulfill the goals and objectives of *One Community One Goal®—Creating Jobs for the 21st Century*, i.e., develop and retain a well-trained technical workforce.

The Biomedical and Environmental Agriculture Technology magnet program will provide opportunities for students from both within and outside of the school's attendance boundary to participate in the BEAT program. The proposed magnet program will commence operation in the 2000-2001 school year with 150 sixth graders and will phase in a new group of 150 sixth graders each subsequent year. The assignment magnet program capacity will be 450 students.

Authorization is requested for the Superintendent to include an increase in the operating budget of the magnet programs. The Biomedical and Environmental Agriculture Technology (BEAT) magnet program will require \$197,050 for implementation in the 2000-2001 school year; \$162,107 in the 2001-2002 school year; and \$170,117 for the 2002-2003 and subsequent school years. The appropriation for this item will be included in the 2000-2001 General Fund of the Tentative Budget to be recommended for adoption in July 2000.

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

1. authorize the Superintendent to establish a Biomedical and Environmental Agriculture Technology magnet program at John F. Kennedy Middle School beginning in the 2000-2001 school year; and
2. authorize the Superintendent to include an increase in the operating budget of the magnet programs to fund this program at \$197,050 for implementation in the 2000-2001 school year; \$162,107 in the 2001-2002 school year; and \$170,117 for the 2002-2003 and subsequent school years.

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

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