

August 11, 2000

Education
Joseph H. Mathos, Deputy Superintendent

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT 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 STAFF MEMBERS FOR THE MONITORING OF OVER 700 POTENTIAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS, FOR THE REIMBURSABLE COST PERIOD FROM JULY 1, 2000 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2001

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 Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) and across the State of Florida. The funds are targeted specifically to defray the costs of hiring one M-DCPS educational specialist, and one M-DCPS career specialist for securing mentors to work with the students and for the monitoring of students who are scholarship recipients. TSIC has provided recipients over \$18 million statewide and \$2 million to M-DCPS in scholarships since its inception in 1997.

Thirty-nine M-DCPS graduates have accessed college scholarships. During the 2000-2001 school year, a total of 773 children will be served by the program. 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 an educational specialist and a career specialist, who will serve 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 in an approximate amount of \$23,518, for the fringe benefits for the two salaries, will be included in the 2000-2001 Tentative Budget to be recommended for adoption in September 2000 under Fund 0100, Program 9298, Function 6120, Objects 5210 and 5232, Locations 9721 and 9619.

The President of the "Take Stock in Children" Foundation is Mr. Donald Pemberton.

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 to fund one educational specialist position and one career specialist position for the purpose of monitoring the program; and
2. approve an approximate amount of \$23,518 to cover fringe benefits for the two positions.

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

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