

December 8, 2000

Demetrio Pérez, Jr., M.S., Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT TO REQUIRE AN ELECTROCARDIOGRAM (EKG) AS PART OF THE PHYSICAL EXAMINATION FOR STUDENT ATHLETES

According to School Board Rule 6Gx13-5D-1.021, "The Superintendent of Schools shall establish such procedures as are necessary to provide for cooperative efforts in the area of school health services and for implementation of statutes pertaining to health programs to be provided in the schools." Each student athlete who participates in athletic activities sanctioned by the Florida High School Activities Association (FHSAA) is given a physical examination annually. The physical examination includes a medical history of the student; an assessment of height/weight and blood pressure/pulse; vision, nose, throat, mouth, skin, heart, chest/lungs, as well as orthopedic tests. It is requested that an electrocardiogram (EKG) be included in the required physical examination to help detect possible heart abnormalities. This requirement is being recommended due to the fatal incidents involving student athletes that have occurred in recent years because of undetected heart problems.

Currently, Health South Doctor's Hospital is contracted to provide a comprehensive sports medicine program to the school board which includes a sport physical to student athletes. The annual cost of this program is \$177,000. The estimated increased cost to include an EKG in the required physical examination is \$1,125,000, for a total estimated cost for sports physicals of \$1,302,000. The additional charges equate to \$75 for the administration and interpretation of an EKG for approximately 15,000 student athletes in the inaugural year.

It is also recommended that subsequent to the 2001-2002 school year, an EKG should be included in the sports physical only for all student athletes entering ninth grade, student athletes new to Miami-Dade County Public Schools, and all student athletes who are participating for the first time in interscholastic sports at the senior high level. The estimated annual cost for subsequent years is \$702,000. This amount equates to \$75 for the EKG for approximately 7,000 students (\$525,000) and the contracted cost of the sports medicine program, \$177,000. Additional charges may be incurred for increased personnel required to perform the sports physicals.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
DEMETRIO PÉREZ, JR., M.S.:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, direct the Superintendent to:

1. require an electrocardiogram (EKG) as part of the sports physical examination for student athletes, effective 2001-2002 school year, at an additional estimated cost of \$1,125,000, which equates to \$75 for administration and interpretation of an EKG for approximately 15,000 student athletes; and
2. subsequent to the 2001-2002 school year, require an EKG for all student athletes entering ninth grade, student athletes new to Miami-Dade County Public Schools, and students who are participating for the first time in interscholastic athletics at the senior high level at an additional estimated cost of \$525,000, which equates to \$75 for administration and interpretation of an EKG for approximately 7,000 student athletes.