

Education  
Joseph Mathos, Deputy Superintendent

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY TO ESTABLISH A KNOWLEDGE IS POWER PROGRAM (KIPP) ACADEMY IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE KIPP NETWORK OF SCHOOLS TO SERVE STUDENTS IN GRADES FIVE THROUGH EIGHT**

Authorization is requested for the Superintendent to study the feasibility to establish a Knowledge is Power Program (KIPP) Academy to serve students in grades five through eight. KIPP is an academically rigorous, college preparatory public school model for students deemed educationally disadvantaged.

The mission of the KIPP Academies is to prepare students with the academic, intellectual, and character skills necessary for success in high school, college, and the competitive world beyond. The program is built on five pillars: 1) High Expectations for student academic achievement and conduct regardless of their background; 2) Choice and Commitment to the school on the part of the teachers, parents, and students alike; 3) More Time for students in the classroom daily, weekly, and yearly; 4) Power to Lead for the school leader who needs to have control over personnel and budget; and 5) Focus on Results as the manner to assess student, teacher, administrator, and overall school performance.

The KIPP Network of Schools is a unique partnership between Doris and Donald Fisher, founders of the Gap, Inc., and Michael Feinberg and David Levin, founders of the nationally acclaimed KIPP Academies in Houston and New York. Miami-Dade County Public Schools will work in partnership with The Network of Schools in the establishment of the academy. The coming year, 2001-2002, is a planning year, with implementation of the program with the grade five students beginning during the 2002-2003 school year. A grade level will be added each year thereafter.

**RECOMMENDED:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to study the feasibility to establish a Knowledge is Power Program (KIPP) Academy to serve educationally disadvantaged students in grades five through eight.

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