

July 10, 2001

Education
Joseph H. Mathos, Deputy Superintendent

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT TO ACCEPT A DONATION OF 30 COMPUTERS FROM DELL COMPUTER CORPORATION AND MICROSOFT IN ADDITION TO COURSEWARE AND PROGRAM MATERIALS FOR A+ CERTIFICATION THROUGH THE DELL ACADEMY PROGRAM

Dell Computer Corporation and Microsoft have offered to donate 30 computers to Miami-Dade County Public Schools. In addition, Dell is donating the Dell Academy program delivered and managed by JES & Co., a non-profit education organization. Students who complete the Dell Academy will have the opportunity to become A+ certified, as well as Dell-certified. Both certifications are building blocks for careers in technology. Dell Corporation, through JES & Co., will provide teacher training, teacher and student curricular materials, courseware, and on-going support for the academy.

The computers and the Dell Academy program will be placed at Miami Southridge Senior High School. The rationale for the school placement is the number of students at the school currently participating in the CISCO Networking Academy and the school's need for up-to-date computers based on the District's Annual Technology Inventory and Statistics Report. A+ certification is extremely beneficial to students planning to enroll in the CISCO Networking Academy. Based on the success of the program, the A+ certification will be considered for possible expansion to all senior high schools in the district. In addition, Booker T. Washington Senior High School will receive a donation of Microsoft software packages based on the needs of the school.

This donation is part of a tri-county initiative that is being replicated in Broward and Palm Beach County schools. If accepted, a letter of appreciation will be sent to Dell Computer Corporation and Microsoft.

No local funds are required.

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

1. accept a donation of 30 computers, courseware and program materials for A+ certification through the Dell Academy program from Dell Computer Corporation and Microsoft, and Microsoft software for Booker T. Washington Senior High School; and
2. place the computers and the Dell Academy Program at Miami Southridge Senior High School, and the Microsoft software at Booker T. Washington Senior High School.

No local funds are required.

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