

Education
Joseph H. Mathos, Deputy Superintendent

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT TO ISSUE A REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR PARTNERS TO SEEK FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (FDOE) FUNDS PROVIDED UNDER APPROPRIATION 131-A. (ALTERNATIVE SCHOOLS/PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS), FROM JULY 1, 2001 - JUNE 30, 2002

Authorization is sought for the Superintendent to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for identification of qualified partners. The Florida Legislature has provided an appropriation of approximately \$5 million for partnerships between outside organizations and school districts interested in exploring new methods of delivering alternative education programs. It is recommended that the School Board seek partners which qualify for the specific appropriations. The district would consider partnering with agencies that could provide alternative education services economically and efficiently.

It is anticipated that an alternative education site be targeted for the grant because of the need to find additional student stations for exceptional education students. Alternative education students currently housed at other sites will also be serviced by the identified partner. Successful identification of a partner and approval of the grant by the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) will result in lower operational costs for servicing these students. Additionally, redirecting student stations at an existing alternative education site for ESE students will greatly reduce the need for the construction of a new exceptional student education center.

The selection of a provider will be made by a committee on the basis of several factors including qualifications of providers: (1) ability to provide proof of educational progress in reading and mathematics, (2) previous experience providing service to disruptive and low performing students, (3) ability to provide the required services to students, and (4) ability to meet all requirements of FDOE Appropriations 131-A.

The selection committee will consist of the following:

- one administrator from the Bureau of Adult/Vocational, Alternative and Dropout Prevention Programs;
- one administrator from the Department of Special Programs;
- two administrators from the Office of Alternative Education and Dropout Prevention Programs;

- one administrator from the Office of Exceptional Student Education and Psychological Services;
- an administrator from the Bureau of Procurement and Materials Management;
- a representative from the Division of Business Development and Assistance; and
- a counselor from an alternative education site.

The estimated timeline for implementation is as follows:

Contract Review Committee	August 16, 2001
Request Board approval to issue RFP and approval of selection committee	August 22, 2001
Mailing RFP	August 23, 2001
Opening of Proposals	September 4, 2001
Evaluation completed by Selection Committee	September 5, 2001
Recommendation to School Board for approval	September 12, 2001

Copies of the RFP will be sent to the Board Members under separate cover. Copies of the RFP will be available for inspection by the public in the Office of Board Recording Secretary, and the Citizen Information Center.

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

1. authorize the Superintendent to issue a Request for Proposals for partners to seek FDOE funds provided under Appropriation 131-A, from July 1, 2001 - June 30, 2002; and
2. approve a selection committee to evaluate the submitted proposals.

JHM:cm