

August 10, 2001

Personnel Management and Services
Nelson E. Diaz, Deputy Superintendent

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION TO SUBMIT MIAMI-DADE COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS ALTERNATIVE CERTIFICATION PROGRAM
PROPOSAL TO THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOR
APPROVAL**

Pursuant to Florida Statute 231.17(7)(b), school districts may develop and maintain an alternative certification program by which members of the district's instructional staff may satisfy the professional education course requirements specified in rules of the state board for issuance of a professional certificate. The state board has adopted by rule standards and guidelines for the approval of alternative certification programs. The Florida Department of Education must approve programs and systems developed to demonstrate professional preparation and education competence authorized by this statute.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) has developed an alternative certification program proposal that is consistent with all statutory requirements. The M-DCPS/UTD Joint Committee has reviewed and supports the proposed program. The program includes methods for identifying each applicant's entry-level teaching competencies and requires each applicant to:

1. have expertise in the subject and meet requirements for specialization in a subject area for which a professional certificate may be issued;
2. possess or have established eligibility for a Temporary Educator Certificate from the Florida Department of Education, Bureau of Educator Certification;
3. undergo a minimum of eleven observations, conducted by the school site principal or designee, utilizing the Professional Assessment and Comprehensive Evaluation System (PACES) instrument;
4. demonstrate in a consistent manner teaching behaviors that either meet or exceed the Florida Educator Accomplished Practices;
5. complete training in only those competency areas in which deficiencies are identified;
6. complete the program within two years after initial employment as a member of the district's instructional staff; and

E-3

7. achieve passing scores on the professional education competency examination required by state board rule.

Authorization is requested to submit the proposed M-DCPS alternative certification program to the Florida Department of Education for review and approval.

The cost of implementing the alternative certification program is estimated to be no more than \$110,000. Funding for this program is included in the Title II Eisenhower Professional Development Program 2001-2002 budget.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida authorize the Superintendent to submit the proposed M-DCPS alternative certification program to the Florida Department of Education for review and approval.

The appropriation for this item is included in the Title II-Eisenhower Professional Development Program 2001-2002 budget.

NED/gpq