

March 25, 2002

Education
Mercedes Tournal, Associate Superintendent

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION TO ISSUE A REQUEST FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE TITLE I PROGRAM MODEL AT SIX PILOT ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS, PROJECT CYCLE: APRIL 18, 2002 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2004

At the School Board meeting of February 14, 2001, Dr. Robert B. Ingram proposed that staff conduct a review of the Title I program to identify best practices and develop six pilot programs for Title I students (Agenda Item B-8). Six elementary schools will be selected for a pilot project through the Request for Participation (RFP) process. Given that the instructional programs already in place have led to a reduction in the number of elementary schools designated "D" and "F" by the Florida Department of Education (FDOE), said pilot project will optimize the effectiveness of those programs by increasing time-on-task within the school day and through extended day programs. As such, Title I, in collaboration with Curriculum Support and Innovative Programs, has developed a model that emphasizes tutoring (with specific emphasis on phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, comprehension, and vocabulary), social services, mentoring and counseling services, professional development, and parental involvement.

All Title I schools whose Free and/or Reduced Price Lunch percentage exceeds 95% will form the pool of schools eligible to apply. Twelve of the schools that apply will be selected. To facilitate the evaluation of the program, six of these schools will be randomly selected to participate in this initiative and the remaining six will be comparison schools. The Office of Evaluation and Research will evaluate the effectiveness of this initiative.

In addition to the regular Title I allocation to each elementary school, during the pilot period an additional amount of approximately \$602,000 (per pilot year) will be awarded to the selected elementary schools to provide program assistance and services that will be directed towards raising student achievement. The overall total cost for the six pilot schools will be approximately \$3,612,000 per pilot year. Planning and professional development will occur from April 18, 2002 through September of 2002, with full implementation beginning in October of 2002 through June 2004.

Title I will provide technical support and monitor program implementation.

No local funds are required. The appropriation for the 2001-2002 portion of this item is included in the Title I budget for the current fiscal year under Fund 0420, Object 5510, Location 9905, Function 6400.

B-70

The estimated timeline for implementation is as follows:

Information Meeting and Distribution of RFP	April 24, 2002
Submission of RFP	May 15, 2002
Evaluation of Proposals	May 16 - 17, 2002
Transmittal to the Board with recommended pilot sites	May 22, 2002

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida authorize the Superintendent to implement the Title I Program Model at Six Pilot Schools: Project Cycle: April 18, 2002 through June 30, 2004.

The appropriation for the 2001-2002 portion of this item is included in the Title I budget for the current fiscal year.

MT/mpt