

June 7, 2002

Education  
Mercedes Toural, Associate Superintendent

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT TO ENTER INTO A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH FLORIDA SPECIAL OLYMPICS, INC., BY AND THROUGH MIAMI MEGA-CITY SPECIAL OLYMPICS, FOR THE CONTINUATION OF A COLLABORATIVE PROGRAM TO PROVIDE SPORTS AND FITNESS TRAINING AND SPORTS COMPETITION OPPORTUNITIES FOR MENTALLY HANDICAPPED STUDENTS, FROM JULY 1, 2002 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2003**

Authorization is requested for the Superintendent to enter into a cooperative agreement with Florida Special Olympics, Inc., by and through Miami Mega-City Special Olympics (MMCSO), for the continuation of a collaborative program which will provide sports and fitness training and sports competition opportunities for mentally handicapped students. This cooperative agreement has been in effect since 1991.

Special Olympics is an international organization that offers year-round sports training and competitive activities for mentally handicapped children and adults and develops opportunities for mentally handicapped persons to participate in school and community recreation programs. Through collaborative endeavors between Special Olympics and school districts, mentally handicapped students participate in sports and fitness training and competition events which test their newly acquired skills.

Through the proposed cooperative agreement, MMCSO will provide two full-time staff members to coordinate the implementation of the program. Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) will provide transportation to Special Olympics activities, physical examinations for students through the M-DCPS Sports Medicine Program, staff liaison services through participating schools and the Office of Exceptional Student Education and Student Services, in-kind secretarial support, substitute coverage for teachers attending events, and use of equipment and duplicating services to disseminate program-related materials.

The Executive Director of Miami-Mega City Special Olympics is Mr. Charles M. Castevens.

There is no exchange of funds.

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

1. enter into a cooperative agreement with Florida Special Olympics, Inc., by and through Miami Mega-City Special Olympics, for the continuation of a collaborative program to provide sports and fitness training and sports competition opportunities for mentally handicapped students, from July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2003; and
2. renew this cooperative agreement annually for up to two additional one-year periods.

There is no exchange of funds.

RKF:as