

Personnel Management and Services
Magaly C. Abrahante, Chief Personnel Officer

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

Pursuant to Section 231.17(7)(b), Florida Statutes, 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 the rules of the State Board of Education 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 that is consistent with all statutory requirements and has received State approval through June 30, 2002. Authorization is requested to submit the M-DCPS Alternative Certification Program to the Florida Department of Education for review and continuation of approval. The M-DCPS/UTD Joint Committee has reviewed and supports renewal of 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
7. achieve passing scores on the professional education competency examination required by State Board of Education rule.

The cost of implementing the Alternative Certification Program during the 2002-2003 school year is estimated to be no more than \$175,000. Funding for this program is included in the Title II Eisenhower Professional Development Program 2001-2002 adopted budget, and will be included in the 2002-2003 budget for Human Resources and Development, with funds being allocated under Title II, Part A: Recruiting, Training, and Preparing High Quality Teachers and Principals, of the "No Child Left Behind Act of 2001."

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent of Schools to submit the M-DCPS Alternative Certification Program to the Florida Department of Education for review and continuation of program approval. The appropriation for this item is included in the Title II-Eisenhower Professional Development Program 2001-2002; the Title II, Part A: Recruiting, Training, and Preparing High Quality Teachers, Principals which will be included in the 2002-2003 Tentative Budget to be recommended for adoption in July 2002.

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