

Dr. Robert B. Ingram, Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST THAT THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, DIRECT THE SUPERINTENDENT TO DEVELOP A PLAN TO AMEND THE BUDGET TO SALVAGE THE PARAPROFESSIONAL PROGRAM

The 2002-03 Adopted Budget included phasing out paraprofessionals in elementary schools previously in the In-School Alternative Education Program and K-1 Systems Management Program.

Positions were budgeted for the first semester only. A freeze was initiated on filling all paraprofessional positions with outside or persons transferring from part-time positions. Efforts have been made to transfer incumbents from program 8948 to open positions in Title I and Exceptional Student Education. Positions are eliminated as they become open. In addition, positions were not permitted to be converted to hourly funds.

As of October 22, 2002, 322 full-time paraprofessionals positions are being funded through Program 8948. It is estimated that the costs of salvaging the remaining paraprofessionals is \$3,391,062 through the end of Fiscal Year 2002-03. Funding the program from Contingency would result in a Contingency balance of \$15,608,938.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
DR. ROBERT B. INGRAM:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, conduct a discussion on the possibility of salvaging the paraprofessional program.