

Education
Mercedes Toural, Associate Superintendent

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION TO ISSUE A REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS/AGENCIES TO PROVIDE SPEECH AND LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY SERVICES IN PROGRAMS FOR SPEECH AND LANGUAGE IMPAIRED STUDENTS, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$500,000, EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 12, 2003 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2004

COMMITTEE: ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION AND SCHOOL OPERATIONS

Authorization is requested to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for health professionals and agencies to provide speech and language pathology services in programs for speech and language impaired students. These services include individual and group evaluations and/or therapy, parent and/or teacher consultation, and record keeping. Due to attrition of staff and speech and language pathology being a critical shortage field, a need for additional staff exists.

Contracts for the speech and language impaired programs, in an amount not to exceed \$500,000, will be developed to provide services from February 12, 2003 through June 30, 2004. A review of all contracts will take place prior to the end of the 2002-2003 fiscal year. Pending funding availability, approval will be requested to extend contracts which have been satisfactorily completed for up to two additional one-year periods.

The selection will be made by a committee on the basis of several factors including qualifications, ability to provide bilingual services, and fee. The proposed members of the selection committee are:

- an executive director for the Division of Exceptional Student Education (ESE)
- a representative from the Superintendent's District Advisory Panel for ESE
- a region director for ESE or designee
- an instructional supervisor for the Division of ESE
- a principal from a school with students who receive services
- a representative from the Division of Business Development and Assistance
- a representative from the Division of Procurement Management and Materials Testing
- a representative from United Teachers of Dade

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The estimated time for implementation is as follows:

Procurement Contract Review Committee.....	October 31, 2002
Request Board approval to issue RFP and approval Of Selection Committee.....	November 20, 2002
Mailing of RFP.....	November 22, 2002
Opening of Proposals.....	December 17, 2002
Evaluations completed by Selection Committee.....	January 13, 2003
Contract Award.....	February 12, 2003

A copy of the RFP will be provided to Board Members under separate cover and will be available for inspection by the public in the Office of Board Recording Secretary and in the Citizen Information Center.

The appropriation for this item is included in the General Fund of the 2002-2003 Adopted Budget under Fund 0420, Function 5200, Program 3531, Object 5310, Location 9615.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida:

1. authorize the Superintendent to issue a Request for Proposals for health professionals/agencies to provide Speech and Language Pathology services in programs for speech and language impaired students, in an amount not to exceed \$500,000, from February 12, 2003 through June 30, 2004; and
2. approve the selection committee to evaluate proposals submitted.

The appropriation for this item is included in the General Fund of the 2002-2003 Adopted Budget.

RKF:amp