

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

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO A FORMAL
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SCHOOL AGREEMENT WITH NOVA
SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY**

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL SERVICES, MEDIA COMMUNICATION AND MARKETING

Professional Development Schools (PDS) are collaborations between schools, colleges and universities, school districts, and professional associations. Unlike laboratory schools, these collaborations are not intended simply to provide new settings for student teaching. PDS establish an environment of shared responsibility where learning opportunities for adults and children are integrated, individual and institutional renewal is augmented, and the process of continuous improvement in teaching and learning at all levels is enhanced. PDS collaborations in Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) provide opportunities for the development of innovative programs, the examination of best practices in teaching and learning, and ongoing professional development.

Faced with critical staffing shortage areas for teachers and increased calls for improved teacher effectiveness, M-DCPS can embrace the PDS movement as one means of systemic improvement. These collaborations unite key stakeholders in meaningful partnerships for one clear purpose, the improvement of teaching and learning opportunities for all students in M-DCPS.

At the School Board Meeting of April 12, 2000, the School Board authorized the creation of a Professional Development Schools Planning Committee. The committee was charged with the planning, development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of professional development school collaborations. As a result of the actions of this committee, Nova Southeastern University and Miami Lakes Elementary School have submitted a Professional Development School Agreement for Board approval. This agreement is supported by the administration, faculty, and parents at Miami Lakes Elementary School, Region I Operations, and faculty from Nova Southeastern University.

Authorization is requested to enter into a Professional Development School agreement with Nova Southeastern University. Documents pertaining to this item are available through the Recording Secretary of the School Board and the Citizen Information Center. There are no additional costs to the district as a result of the implementation of this item.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to enter into a formal Professional Development School agreement with Nova Southeastern University.

MCA:gpq