

Mercedes Toural, Chief Education Officer
and Deputy Superintendent of Schools

**SUBJECT: REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT TO
ENTER INTO A CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT WITH THE
UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI-MAILMAN CENTER FOR CHILD
DEVELOPMENT TO PROVIDE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES AND
SPECIALIZED SPEECH TRAINING FOR DEAF STUDENTS**

COMMITTEE: EDUCATION AND SCHOOL OPERATIONS

Authorization is requested to enter into a contractual agreement with the University of Miami-Mailman Center for Child Development to provide educational services and specialized speech training for deaf students. The University of Miami/Miami-Dade County Public Schools Program for the Deaf or Hard-of-Hearing (UM/M-DCPS Program) specializes in training children to use sensory aids such as hearing aids and tactile aids or cochlear implants. When worn in combination with hearing aids, tactile aids enhance the ability to understand and produce spoken language. Basic instruction, as well as individual and group speech therapy, focuses on developing the students' skills in interpreting the signal into speech sounds.

The UM/M-DCPS Program will provide certified personnel, technical and training assistance to implement the program, an on-site training coordinator who supervises program activities, equipment, and equipment maintenance. Students will receive basic instruction as well as individual and group sensory aid instruction. Additionally, the UM/M-DCPS Program will provide technical and training assistance for the satellite sites at Auburndale Elementary School, Rockway Middle School, and Palm Springs Middle School.

Funding for this contract will be provided, at least in part, by FTE from the Florida Education Finance Program. Extended School Year services, if required, will be provided through the Individuals with Disabilities Act. The contractual agreement will provide for a maximum of 35 full-time students to be served in the UM/M-DCPS Program based on their Individual Educational Plans (IEPs) or Family Support Plans (FSPs) and on their current matrix funding levels, including a maximum of ten students below age three, in an amount not to exceed \$466,616, effective July 1, 2003 through June 30, 2004.

The Project Director of the University of Miami-Mailman Center for Child Development, Program for the Deaf or Hard of Hearing, is Ms. Kathleen Vergara.

The appropriation for this item will be included in the General Fund of the 2003-2004 Tentative Budget to be recommended for adoption in July 2003 under Fund 0100, Function 5217, Program 6840, Object 5310, Location 9731 and in the Contracted Programs Fund under Fund 0420, Function 5200, Program 3531, Object 5310, Location 9615.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to enter into a contractual agreement with the University of Miami-Mailman Center for Child Development to provide educational services and specialized speech training for deaf students, in an amount not to exceed \$466,616, effective July 1, 2003 through June 30, 2004.

The appropriation for this item will be included in the General Fund of the 2003-2004 Tentative Budget to be recommended for adoption in July 2003.

RKF/BB:jf