

Ms. Betsy H. Kaplan, Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST THAT THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, DIRECT THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS TO REINSTATE TRUST SPECIALIST POSITIONS IN THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS IN THE HOMESTEAD FEEDER PATTERN EFFECTIVE AUGUST 2003- JUNE 2004

COMMITTEE: EDUCATION AND SCHOOL OPERATIONS

In 1991, the United States Department of Education funded a two-year pilot program in five elementary schools in the Homestead Feeder Pattern. This pilot program provided funding for five TRUST specialist positions in elementary schools. The Homestead Feeder Pattern had been identified as having a particular need for mental health services that were not being met by community resources. The five elementary TRUST specialist positions were instituted in order to address the social and emotional needs of the students and the community.

In 1993, after Hurricane Andrew, The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, undertook the funding of these five elementary TRUST specialist positions in response to critical needs stemming from the aftermath of the catastrophe. These positions have remained intact since that time.

Recently, the positions were eliminated as a result of the *School Allocation Plan, K-12*. As a result of the continuing needs of the Homestead Community, which lacks social services available in other areas of Miami-Dade County, it is recommended that the five elementary TRUST specialist positions be reinstated.

Local district funds will be required.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
MS. BETSY H. KAPLAN:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, direct the Superintendent of Schools to:

1. authorize the reinstatement of the five TRUST specialist positions in the elementary schools in the Homestead Feeder Pattern; and
2. direct Financial Affairs to establish appropriations for five TRUST specialist positions.

BHK:myt