

Mercedes Toural, Chief Education Officer
and Deputy Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT WITH MIAMI-DADE COLLEGE (M-DC) UNDER THE FLORIDA WORK EXPERIENCE PROGRAM

COMMITTEE: EDUCATION AND SCHOOL OPERATIONS

The Florida Work Experience Program was instituted to introduce eligible students to work experience that will complement and reinforce their educational program and career goals. During the 2002-2003 school year, Miami-Dade College (M-DC) was a grantee institution that contracted with Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) as an employer of part-time eligible students in paraprofessional positions. This program has been in existence since September 1988.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools has been informed that funds will be available for the 2003-2004 school year. M-DC, the sponsoring post-secondary institution, funds 100 percent of the wages of the students who will be hired as M-DCPS paraprofessional employees. These college students will provide instructional aid primarily to low income, inner-city area elementary and secondary students as well as to adult students lacking basic or functional literacy skills.

Miami-Dade College students are paid an hourly rate equivalent to that of M-DCPS paraprofessionals. Enrollees in the program must meet the requirements set forth under Section 1009.40, Florida Statutes. M-DC will reimburse M-DCPS for actual salaries in an amount not to exceed \$85,000. M-DCPS' share of the cost is limited to paying FRS/FICA retirement costs, in an amount not to exceed \$14,578.

The appropriation for this item is included in the General Fund of the 2003-2004 Tentative Adopted Budget under Fund 0100, Function 5102, Program 9274, Object 5150 and Location 8001.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to enter into a contractual agreement with Miami-Dade College (M-DC) under the Florida Work Experience Program, whereby M-DC will reimburse the salaries of college students, in an amount not to exceed \$85,000, and Miami-Dade County Public Schools will fund FRS/FICA retirement costs, in an amount not to exceed \$14,578, effective September 11, 2003 through June 30, 2004.

The appropriation for this item is included in the General Fund of the 2003-2004 Tentative Adopted Budget.

GMK/CR/JJG:rn