

Mercedes Toural, Chief Education Officer
and Deputy Superintendent of Schools

**SUBJECT: REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT TO
ACCEPT FUNDS THROUGH A CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT
WITH THE MIAMI-DADE SCHOOL READINESS COALITION (M-
DSRC) TO PROVIDE SUBSTITUTE COVERAGE FOR
COMMUNITY EDUCATION FEE-SUPPORTED AND TITLE I PRE-
KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS**

COMMITTEE: EDUCATION AND SCHOOL OPERATIONS

Legislation enacted by the Florida Legislature, entitled the School Readiness Act of 1999, *Florida Statute 411.01*, created the Florida Partnership for School Readiness Board to provide a unified approach to coordinate and to enhance school readiness programs in the state. To fulfill the intent of this legislation, the Miami-Dade School Readiness Coalition (M-DSRC), a not-for-profit organization, was formed. Its purpose is to implement and to evaluate an integrated and quality seamless service delivery system for all publicly funded early childhood and care programs in Miami-Dade County. To advance this mission, the M-DSRC and Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) became partners in the assessment of four-year old students.

During the 2003-2004 school year, all pre-kindergarten students enrolled in the Community Education Fee-Supported and Title I Pre-kindergarten Programs will be assessed with the Learning Accomplishment Profile-Diagnostic (LAP-D) and the Devereux Early Childhood Assessment (DECA) instruments. The LAP-D assesses cognitive, language, mathematics, and motor skills development. DECA assesses social and emotional development. These assessments, which guide and focus instruction for greater achievement, are also used by school readiness programs funded through the (M-DSRC).

In support of this effort, at its Board meeting of September 11, 2003, the M-DSRC authorized a contractual agreement with M-DCPS to provide funding not to exceed \$250,862, for substitute coverage for full-time pre-kindergarten teachers. For each teacher there are two (2) days of training, five (5) days for the pre-testing, and three (3) days for post-testing. This is the first year that the M-DSRC will provide funds to cover substitute instructors for prekindergarten teachers that are assessing students.

The CEO of the M-DSRC is Mrs. Paula Bender.

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Based on the contractual agreement between M-DCPS and M-DSRC, reimbursement of contract-related expenditures is authorized effective September 16, 2003.

No local funds are required.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to:

1. accept funds through a contractual agreement with the Miami-Dade School Readiness Coalition (M-DSRC), in an amount not to exceed \$250,862, to provide substitute coverage for Community Education Fee-Supported and Title I pre-kindergarten teachers effective September 16, 2003 through June 30, 2004; and
2. direct Financial Affairs to establish revenues and appropriations not to exceed \$250,862; such appropriations to be reported periodically to the Board.

No local funds are required.

GMK/LCR/MEM:vw