

Mercedes Toural, Chief Education Officer  
and Deputy Superintendent of Schools

**SUBJECT: REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT GRANT AWARDS FROM THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOR FUNDING UNDER THE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL FEDERAL GRANT PROGRAM AND ENTER INTO SEPARATE CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENTS WITH THE CHARTER SCHOOLS**

**COMMITTEE: EDUCATION AND SCHOOL OPERATIONS**

The Florida Department of Education (FDOE) issued a Request for Proposal under the Public Charter School Federal Grant Program for the purpose of awarding grants to charter schools partnering with local educational agencies in order to provide a high quality education for all students. The Public Charter School Federal Grant Program provides funds only to those charter schools which have been approved by the local school district, and which have established a collaborative partnership for the oversight and operation of the charter schools. Funds received from this grant will be used to improve the quality of education, support planning activities, and supplement the level of funds that would be made available from non-federal sources.

In collaboration with Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS), Downtown Miami Charter School, Mater Academy East Charter School, Sandor Wiener School of Opportunity, and Vankara Academy Charter School submitted grant applications to support charter school operations.

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It is anticipated that the charter schools will receive the following funding amounts:

Charter School	Grant Type	Amount of Grant	Indirect Costs	Contract Amount
Downtown Miami Charter School	Second Year Implementation Grant	\$200,000	\$6,670	\$193,330
Mater Academy East Charter School	Second year Implementation Grant	\$200,000	\$6,670	\$193,330
Sandor Wiener School of Opportunity	Second year Implementation Grant	\$200,000	\$6,670	\$193,330
Vankara Academy Charter School	Second Year Implementation Grant	\$200,000	\$6,670	\$193,330
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$800,000</b>	<b>\$26,680</b>	<b>\$773,320</b>

In accordance with the FDOE grant guidelines, M-DCPS must be the fiscal agent on behalf of each of the charter schools that receive such grants. The Board's approval of the recommended action would not constitute an endorsement of the grants or its intended use. It would merely satisfy the Board's requirement under Florida Statutes, Section 1002.33, Charter Schools, which requires that M-DCPS serve as the fiscal agent.

Authorization is requested for M-DCPS to enter into separate contractual agreements with the aforementioned charter schools for the amounts indicated. The charter schools will be responsible for implementing the program outlined in their respective grant applications and expending the grant funds.

No matching funds are required as a condition to receive the grant funding. Grant funds in the amount of \$800,000 will be used for hourly personnel, field trips, and educational supplies.

Official notification relative to these grant awards was received on September 3, 2003, which is after the start of the grant period. Reimbursement of grant-related expenditures is authorized effective July 24, 2003.

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

1. accept grant awards from the Florida Department of Education, in the total amount of \$800,000, for funding under the Public Charter School Federal Grant Program for the grant period of July 24, 2003 through September 30, 2004;
2. enter into separate contractual agreements with:
  - a. Downtown Miami Charter School, Inc., on behalf of Downtown Miami Charter School, in an amount not to exceed \$193,330;
  - b. Mater Academy, Inc., on behalf of Mater Academy East Charter School, in an amount not to exceed \$193,330;
  - c. Sandor Wiener School of Opportunity, Inc., on behalf of Sandor Wiener School of Opportunity in an amount not to exceed \$193,330; and
  - d. Vankara Academy Charter School, Inc., on behalf of Vankara Academy Charter School, in an amount not to exceed \$193,330, for a total of \$773,320;
3. approve acceptance of these grant awards in accordance with Section 1002.33 Florida Statutes, Charter Schools. This action is not an endorsement of the activities undertaken by charter schools;
4. extend these programs and contractual agreements as authorized through official notification from the granting agency, in order to complete the goals of the program; and
5. direct Financial Affairs to establish appropriations in the amounts approved by the granting agency; such appropriations to be reported periodically to the Board.

AMC:th

BUDGET SUMMARY FORM



Yes  
 No Are there any in-kind or matching funds required?  
 Entitlement Grant  
 Non-Entitlement/Contract

GRANT/PROGRAM NAME: Public Charter School Federal Grant Program  
 Grant Period Beginning July 24, 2003 (Date) Ending September 30, 2004 (Date)

FUNCTION	Total Budget	Salaries (51XX)	Employee Benefits (52XX)	Purchased Services (53XX)	Energy Services (54XX)	Materials and Supplies (55XX)	Capital Outlay (56XX)	Other Expense (57XX)
<b>INSTRUCTION SERVICES</b>	773,320			773,320				
<b>SUPPORT SERVICES:</b>								
Pupil Personnel Services .....								
Instructional Media Services .....								
Instruction & Curriculum Development								
Instructional Staff Training.....								
Board of Education.....								
General Administration .....	26,680*							26,680*
School Administration .....								
Facilities Acquisitions & Construction								
Fiscal Services.....								
Food Services .....								
Central Services.....								
Transportation Services.....								
Operation of Plant.....								
Maintenance of Plant.....								
Community Services .....								
Debt.....								
<b>TOTAL INSTRUCTION AND SUPPORT SERVICES</b>	<b>800,000</b>			773,320				26,680

\*Includes Federal Indirect Costs of 26,680

Reviewed By *[Signature]*  
 Division of Budget

Submitted for Board Approval/Authorization:

Agenda Item B-63 Board Meeting of October 22, 2003 (Date)  
 (Number) (Date)