

Antoinette Dunbar, Deputy Superintendent
Curriculum, Instruction, and School Improvement

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

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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 enhance school readiness programs in the state. To fulfill the intent of this legislation, the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe (ELCMD/M), 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 early childhood and care programs funded by the Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) in Miami-Dade County. To advance this mission, the ELCMD/M and Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) became partners in the assessment of four-year old students.

Prekindergarten students enrolled in the Community Education Fee-Supported and Title I Prekindergarten 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 provide teachers with information to guide and focus instruction for greater achievement. They are also used by schools in the prekindergarten to kindergarten student transition process.

In support of this effort, the ELCMD/M authorized a contractual agreement with M-DCPS to provide funding, not to exceed \$70,000, to provide substitute coverage for full-time prekindergarten teachers administering the LAP-D and DECA instruments. For each teacher there are three days for testing. This is the fourth year that the ELCMD/M will provide funds to cover substitute instructors for prekindergarten teachers that are assessing students.

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Based on the contractual agreement between M-DCPS and ELCMD/M, reimbursement of contract-related expenditures is authorized effective January 19, 2006.

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 Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe (ELCMD/M), in an amount not to exceed \$70,000, to provide substitute coverage for Community Education Fee-Supported and Title I pre-kindergarten teachers effective January 19, 2006, through June 30, 2006; and
2. direct Financial Affairs to establish revenues and appropriations not to exceed \$70,000; such appropriations to be reported periodically to the Board.

No local funds are required.

CJ/SJD:vw