

Freddie Woodson, Associate Superintendent  
School Operations

**SUBJECT:           REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SCHOOL BOARD OF  
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, TO ENTER INTO A  
CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT WITH THE MIAMI-DADE  
STATE ATTORNEY'S OFFICE FOR TRUANCY  
INTERVENTION SERVICES FROM MARCH 1, 2007,  
THROUGH JUNE 30, 2009**

**COMMITTEE:       SCHOOL SUPPORT AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

**LINK TO DISTRICT  
STRATEGIC PLAN:  DEVELOP AND ROLL OUT DISTRICT-WIDE TRUANCY PLAN**

Authorization is sought for The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, to enter into a contractual agreement with the Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office to provide truancy intervention services through the State Attorney's Office Truancy Intervention Program (TIP). The TIP program will be implemented in all elementary schools and K-8 centers. TIP will be funded utilizing budgeted District funds. Implementation will begin March 1, 2007, and continue until June 30, 2009. TIP supports the Superintendent's priority of improving student attendance and reducing truancy. TIP is a partnership between the Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office (SAO) and Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS). TIP provides early intervention services, utilizing a multi-systemic methodology and provides prosecutorial enforcement of Florida's Compulsory School Attendance laws. The Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office (SAO), in partnership with Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS), developed and implemented a pilot Truancy Intervention Program (TIP) during the 1994-1995 school year in four elementary schools with the highest truancy rate and expanded to every elementary school and K-8 center, until the 2006-2007 school year. In the past, The Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office received their funding through the Florida Legislature.

Implementation of this program will improve attendance and reduce truancy in all elementary schools and K-8 centers in Miami-Dade County, and is based on the following conclusions:

- TIP provides effective methods of delinquency reduction by focusing on truancy intervention strategies in the formative years, coupled with enforcing parental responsibility.
- Students will not acquire basic academic competencies unless they attend school regularly.

**D-9**

- As an initial step, TIP intervention strategies can have a positive effect on students before they have fallen too far behind academically or have become hardened by recurrent contact with the juvenile justice system.
- M-DCPS can save its children's futures and reduce the potential for crime by preventing delinquent behavior and improving academic success through a reduction in truancy. Enforcement of school attendance laws requires the coordinated effort of various agencies.

With a target population in excess of 175,000 students, TIP is the largest cooperative effort ever undertaken by the State Attorney's Office and M-DCPS for truancy intervention services.

The Honorable Katherine Fernandez Rundle is the State Attorney for the 11<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit of Florida.

The estimated cost by M-DCPS to finance TIP for a three-year period is listed below:

Year 1	March 1, 2007 - June 30, 2008	Estimated Cost	\$161,313
Year 2	July 1, 2007 - June 30, 2008	Estimated Cost	\$292,753
Year 3	July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2009	Estimated Cost	\$301,535

The funding is included in the 2006-2007 adopted budget for School Operations/Special Programs under: Fund 0100, Location 9719, Program 6050, Function 5120, and Object 5310.

The Professional Services Contract Committee established by School Board Rule 6Gx13-3-F-1.021 reviewed this contractual agreement on January 25, 2007. We further request that the contract with the Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office be granted an exception to the rule regarding bids or Request for Proposals (RFP) due to the contractor's sole source in the field.

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

1. enter into a contractual agreement with the Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office for truancy intervention services from March 1, 2007, through June 30, 2009, for an estimated amount of \$755,601; and
2. grant an exception to Board Rule 6Gx13- 3F-1.021, based on sole source in the field.

FW/KPC/MEZ:jc