

Office of Professional Development  
Ava G. Byrne, Deputy Superintendent

**SUBJECT:                      REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO SUBMIT A  
RENEWAL OF THE M-DCPS ADD-ON  
CERTIFICATION PROGRAM FOR THE ENGLISH  
FOR SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES (ESOL)  
ENDORSEMENT TO THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT  
OF EDUCATION FOR APPROVAL**

**COMMITTEE:                      SCHOOL SUPPORT ACCOUNTABILITY**

**LINK TO DISTRICT  
STRATEGIC PLAN:                      DEVELOP AND RETAIN HIGH-PERFORMING AND  
MOTIVATED FACULTY AND STAFF**

Authorization is requested to submit a renewal of the M-DCPS ESOL Add-on Certification Program Endorsement to the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) for approval. The ESOL Add-on Endorsement certification offers a rigorous professional development program that allows teachers to complete mandatory coursework at no cost and thereby insures that instructional personnel teaching Limited English Proficient (LEP) students acquire specific knowledge and skills that will enable them to meet their students' needs. Participants must complete five courses that are equivalent to college level offerings.

In light of the fact that most M-DCPS elementary teachers that have graduated from a traditional teacher preparation program at a local college or university have already completed program requirements that are embedded in their college coursework, these teachers are deemed to have met the ESOL Add-on Endorsement. Accordingly, the program is primarily intended to impact a core number of elementary teachers that teach the two-hour language arts block for LEP students and lack the collegiate level training. The program is also offered for secondary level teachers that teach MJ Language Arts Through ESOL 1, 2, 3, English Through ESOL 1, 2, 3, 4 and Developmental Language Arts Through ESOL for Middle and Senior High School. During the five-year period from 2002 through 2007, the program has served 8,992 teachers. To date, 3,934 teachers have achieved the Add-on Endorsement through the district's program.

Following the establishment in 1990, of the ESOL Add-on Endorsement program in accordance with 6A-4.0244, FAC and in compliance with requirements set forth in the Multicultural Education, Training and Advocacy (META) Consent Decree, the program was renewed in 1997, and in 2002, to incorporate modifications that enhanced the program's quality. The current proposed renewal will amend the program to include an online option that will offer greater flexibility to teachers in completing requirements for the Add-on ESOL Endorsement. The introduction of an online component will result in anticipated costs in the amount of \$150 per teacher to pay license fees that will be incurred for each course. The program will also be revised to incorporate a reverse crosswalk between the Reading Endorsement and ESOL Add-on Endorsement programs. In particular, teachers that have completed two reading endorsement courses will be able to apply the coursework to meet the requirements for the ESOL Add-on Endorsement.

**RECOMMENDED:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to submit a renewal of the Add-on Certification Program for English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Endorsement to the Florida Department of Education for approval and include the amended program as part of the district's Master Plan for In-service Education, 2004-2009.

AGB:CM:cg