

Alberto M. Carvalho, Associate Superintendent  
Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, Grants, Marketing, and Community Services

**SUBJECT: REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT A GRANT AWARD FROM THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (FLDOE) FOR FUNDING THE INTERVENTION RESEARCH PROGRAM AND ENTER INTO CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENTS WITH AMERICAN INSTITUTES FOR RESEARCH (AIR) AND CAMBIUM LEARNING**

**COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

**LINK TO DISTRICT**

**STRATEGIC PLAN: IMPROVE RETURN ON INVESTMENT OF GRANT DOLLARS**

Authorization is requested to accept a grant award from the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE), in the amount of \$1,000,000, to fund the Intervention Research Grant, and enter into separate contractual agreements with the American Institutes for Research (AIR) and Cambium Learning for the amounts of \$845,113, and \$50,000, respectively, for the grant period of May 4, 2007, through December 31, 2007. The purpose of this grant is to conduct research evaluating the impact of reading intervention programs for struggling middle and senior high school students. Struggling students are those who have deficits in phonemic awareness, phonics, and fluency as determined by the Diagnostic Assessment of Reading (DAR). With grant support, M-DCPS will evaluate the reading intervention LANGUAGE! The grant will be managed by Curriculum and Instruction.

In collaboration with AIR, the District will conduct research on the following topics:

- To what extent do struggling readers receiving LANGUAGE! perform better in reading comprehension, vocabulary, and overall reading ability in comparison to similar readers receiving instruction in an alternative remedial program?
- To what extent do teacher experience and professional development using the LANGUAGE! model impact student improvement?

The Division of Curriculum and Instruction, in conjunction with the Office of Program Evaluation, has identified eleven treatment schools implementing LANGUAGE! and eleven carefully matched comparison schools for a quasi-experimental design.

**Revised<sup>2</sup>**  
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The treatment schools were selected based on the following criteria: currently implementing LANGUAGE!; a significant number of faculty had been trained in the use of the program; and school site administrators and faculty indicated a willingness to continue implementation of the program during the grant period. The comparison schools were carefully selected to match the demographic variables of the treatment schools. The targeted schools are:

<b>Treatment Schools</b>	<b>Comparison Schools</b>
Homestead Middle	Redland Middle
South Miami Middle	Lamar Louise Curry Middle
South Dade Senior	Hialeah-Miami Lakes Senior
Miami Carol City Senior	Miami Northwestern Senior
Coral Gables Senior	Southwest Miami Senior
Miami Beach Senior	Felix Varela Senior
Miami Sunset Senior	Miami Coral Park Senior
Barbara Goleman Senior	Miami Springs Senior
Miami Senior	Hialeah Senior
Miami Southridge Senior	Miami Jackson Senior
North Miami Senior	Norland Senior

In accordance with the terms of the grant application, authorization is requested to enter into separate contractual agreements with American Institutes for Research (AIR) and Cambium Learning for the amounts of \$845,113, and \$50,000, respectively. AIR, a non-profit behavioral and social science research organization based in Washington D.C., was selected to conduct the evaluation based on its expertise in adolescent literacy instruction and intervention research and its extensive experience producing rigorous studies using scientific evidence on the effectiveness of educational programs and policies. Cambium Learning is the parent company of Sopris West Educational Services (Sopris West), the developer of LANGUAGE!. Cambium Learning will provide professional development for teachers, reading coaches, District personnel, and administrators.

The Professional Services Contract Committee established by School Board Rule 6Gx13- 3F-1.021, reviewed this item on July 12, 2007, and recommended that an exception to the rule regarding bids or Requests for Proposals be granted on the basis that the contract with AIR is in the best interest of the District as otherwise determined by the Committee.

American Institutes for Research (AIR) was selected to partner with the District based on its national reputation and expertise in conducting and designing research projects focused on literacy issues and policy, literacy assessment and school reform. Additional factors included the depth and breadth of AIR's resources, the expertise of the evaluation team, and the timing and quality of the response. AIR's track record includes national assessments for the U.S. Department of Education (USDOE), dissemination through the *What Works Clearinghouse* at the USDOE's Institute of Education Sciences, secondary school reform in collaboration with the Bill and Melinda

Gates Foundation, and consulting for large urban school districts including Chicago, Los Angeles, Baltimore, San Diego and New York City. AIR has been contracted by the USDOE to monitor the implementation of the Reading First program nationwide.

Sopris West is a subsidiary of Cambium Learning, an education company that provides research-based, culturally responsive instructional materials, services, and technology to help educators raise the achievement level of pre-K through 12 students. Founded in 2003 and based in Natick, Massachusetts, Cambium Learning companies and imprints include Sopris West Educational Services, Kurzweil Educational Systems, Intellitools, Inc., and Metropolitan Teaching and Learning, who, for over 26 years, have established themselves as nationally recognized leaders in education.

No matching funds are required as a condition to receive the grant funding. Grant funds provide for one full-time instructional support specialist, one full-time curriculum support specialist, contracted services, travel, and indirect costs.

Official notification of this grant award was received on May 10, 2007. Reimbursement of grant-related expenditures is effective May 4, 2007.

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

1. accept a grant award from the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE), for funding the Intervention Research program in the amount of \$1,000,000, for the grant period of May 4, 2007, through December 31, 2007;
2. enter into a contractual agreement with American Institutes for Research for \$845,113, to conduct the evaluation of LANGUAGE!, and enter into a separate contractual agreement with Cambium Learning for \$50,000, for professional development using LANGUAGE! for the period of July 12, 2007, through December 31, 2007;
3. retain funds from the grant in an amount not to exceed the annually negotiated indirect cost rate, as allowed and approved by the FLDOE;
4. extend this program and contractual agreements as authorized through official notification from the granting agency in order to complete the goals of the program;
5. direct Financial Operations to establish appropriations in the amounts approved or as amended by the granting agency, such appropriations to be reported periodically to the Board; and
6. grant an exception pursuant to School Board Rule 6Gx13-3F-1.021, related to Requests for Proposals on the basis of that the contract with American Institutes for Research is in the best interest of the District as otherwise determined by the Professional Services Contract Committee.

Added

AMC:ms

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

BUDGET SUMMARY FORM



Yes  No Are there any in-kind or matching funds required?

Entitlement Grant  Non-Entitlement/Contract

GRANT/PROGRAM NAME: Intervention Research

Grant Period Beginning June 30, 2007 Ending December 31, 2007  
(Date) (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)
INSTRUCTION SERVICES	5000							
SUPPORT SERVICES:								
Pupil Personnel Services	6100							
Instructional Media Services	6200							
Instruction & Curriculum Development	6300	50,975.00	15,340.00					
Instructional Staff Training	6400			52,520.00				
Board of Education	7100							
General Administration	7200	36,052.00*						36,052.00*
School Administration	7300							
Facilities Acquisitions & Construction	7400							
Fiscal Services	7500							
Food Services	7600							
Central Services	7700	845,113.00		845,113.00				
Transportation Services	7800							
Operation of Plant	7900							
Maintenance of Plant	8100							
Community Services	9100							
Debt	9200							
TOTAL INSTRUCTION AND SUPPORT SERVICES	1,000,000.00	50,975.00	15,340.00	897,633.00				36,052.00

\*Includes Federal Indirect Costs of \$36,052.00

Submitted for Board Approval/Authorization:

Reviewed By [Signature]  
Division of Budget

Agenda Item C-87 Board Meeting of August 1, 2007  
(Number) (Date)