

Alberto M. Carvalho, Associate Superintendent  
Office of Intergovernmental Affairs and Grants Administration

**SUBJECT:           REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT A GRANT AWARD FROM THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (USDOE) FOR FUNDING UNDER THE SMALLER LEARNING COMMUNITIES PROGRAM AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI**

**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 United States Department of Education (USDOE) in the approximate amount of \$10,416,611, to fund the Smaller Learning Communities Program for the grant period of August 8, 2008, through August 7, 2013. Funding will be awarded in two budget periods as follows: approximately \$7,147,871 will be funded for the period August 8, 2008, through August 7, 2011, and approximately \$3,268,740, will be funded for the period August 8, 2011, through August 7, 2013. The purpose of the grant is to provide federal financial assistance to encourage large high schools to undertake the planning, implementation, and expansion of smaller learning communities through research-based restructuring. Strategies include establishing small learning clusters and career academies with emphasis on the implementation of grade nine transition activities, adult advocate/advisory systems, and high academic standards for all students. The grant will be managed by School Operations, School Choice and Parental Options and supports the District's goal to ensure achievement of high academic standards by all students.

In accordance with the grant application, the following schools were targeted for this program because they met all federal requirements, including documented need for assistance relative to student performance, diversity/achievement gaps, graduation rates, school safety concerns, and successful transition to post-high school training and/or careers.

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The eight schools identified in the SLC grant are:

- American Senior High
- Coral Gables Senior High
- Miami Beach Senior High
- Miami Jackson Senior High
- Robert Morgan Educational Center
- Miami Lakes Educational Center
- North Miami Beach Senior High
- Booker T. Washington Senior High

In accordance with the terms of the grant application, authorization is requested to enter into a contractual agreement with an external evaluation. Following District protocol, the University of Miami, School of Education (UM) was selected to serve as evaluator and provide annual and final performance reports for the project period. The contract will not exceed \$100,000 annually, for a total of \$500,000 over five years.

No matching funds are required as a condition to receive the grant funding. Funds will be used for: the full-time salaries of the project director, secretary, and school site coordinators; training stipends for school staff; contracted services for an annual evaluation of the grant program; transportation costs; travel and registration fees for school site personnel and grant-supported staff to attend conferences and workshops; marketing and recruitment materials and activities; Academy-specific equipment, materials, supplies and learning tools; and professional and technical services fees for consultants.

Official notification of this grant award was received on August 14, 2008. Reimbursement of grant-related expenditures is authorized effective August 8, 2008.

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

1. accept a grant award from the United States Department of Education (USDOE) for funding under the Smaller Learning Communities Program in the amount of \$10,416,611 for the grant period of August 8, 2008, through August 7, 2013;
2. enter into a contractual agreement with the University of Miami not to exceed the amount of \$500,000, for the grant period of August 8, 2008, through August 7, 2013, with:
3. extend this grant and contractual agreements authorized through official notification from the granting agency in order to complete the goals of the programs; and
4. 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.

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