

Financial Services
Richard H. Hinds , Chief Financial Officer

SUBJECT: REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT TO ENTER INTO CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENTS WITH THE COUNCIL OF GREAT CITY SCHOOLS TO REVIEW THE OPERATION OF THE FOOD SERVICES AND CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENTS, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$50,000.00, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 2, 2009 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2009 AND REQUEST CONGRESS TO PASS SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION } ADDED

COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, EFFICIENCY AND GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

**LINK TO DISTRICT
STRATEGIC PLAN: IMPROVE BUSINESS PRACTICES**

Authorization is requested for the Superintendent to enter into a contractual agreement with the Council of Great City Schools to perform on-site reviews of the Food Services and Construction Management operations in the amount of \$50,000, effective from January 2, 2009 through June 30, 2009.

The Council of Great City Schools is the only national organization exclusively representing the needs of urban public schools. The organization provides a network for school districts sharing common problems to exchange information, and to collectively address new challenges as they emerge in order to deliver the best possible education for urban youth.

The Council of Great City Schools has agreed to contract with the District to review the operations of Food Services and Construction Management. The Council will prepare a full report of their findings and recommendations.

On November 20, 2008, in accordance with School Board Rule 6Gx13- 3F-1.021, for Professional Services contracts, the contract was thoroughly reviewed, and the Professional Services Contract Committee recommended that an exception to the School Board rule regarding bids or Request for Proposals (RFP) be granted as this agency has specific expertise in this field.

Funding for this contract is included in the Food Services Fund under the following budget structure: Fund 0410, Object 5390, Program 5200, Location 9915, Function 7600 in the amount of \$25,000 and in the Capital Outlay Fund under the following budget structure: Fund 0372, Object 5633, Program 1571, Location 9128, Function 7400 in the amount of \$ 25,000.

Federal funding for K-12 education is less than 2 percent of the total federal budget but its impact on local schools is critical. Florida's public education funding is not only lagging inflation but absorbing a series of cuts that has the potential of eroding our teaching capacity. Unless we face this crisis head-on, stalling tax revenues threaten to compound these initial shocks and make the damage permanent. Congress has wisely recognized the value of investing in public infrastructure in the nation's longer-term recovery.

Congress and the new administration have a golden opportunity to renew its commitment to public education while stimulating the economy by including public schools in its economic stimulus package. Providing funding for school construction and maintenance of aging facility will put people back to work in Florida. The construction industry in the state has contracted due to the virtual shut-down of the credit market. With Florida leading in job losses, it would be prudent for Congress to protect its nation's investment in school buildings. Additionally, since the reauthorization of IDEA in 2004, the cumulative funding gap or the difference between what has been authorized and what has been appropriated to states is \$30.4 billion. Similarly, the funding gap for NCLB is \$85.7 billion. Together, the funding gap is over \$126 billion.

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RECOMMENDED:

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

a) enter into contractual agreements with The Council of Great City Schools to complete a review of the Food Service and Construction Management departments in the amount not to exceed \$50,000; and

b) request Congress to pass supplemental federal funding for public education inclusive of increased funding for Individuals with Disability Education Act (IDEA) and No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act, school construction and maintenance, and technology.

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