

Financial Services  
Richard H. Hinds, Chief Financial Officer

**SUBJECT:           REQUEST    AUTHORIZATION    TO    ENTER    INTO  
CONTRACTUAL SERVICES AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE  
SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, AND  
AKERMAN SENTERFITT; BECKER & POLIAKOFF, P.A.;  
FLORIDA SCHOOL SERVICES, INC.; AND RONALD L. BOOK,  
P.A., PURSUANT TO REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS  
NO. 016-JJ10 – STATE LEGISLATIVE CONSULTANT**

**COMMITTEE:        INNOVATION, EFFICIENCY & GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS**

**LINK TO DISTRICT  
STRATEGIC PLAN:  EVALUATE AND REDESIGN INTERNAL BUSINESS  
OPERATIONS**

Request For Proposals No. 016-JJ10 – STATE LEGISLATIVE CONSULTANT, is to provide state legislative consulting services for The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida. This is a term proposal. Six (6) proposers responded to this advertised solicitation.

For the past three years, The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, has had a contract for state legislative consulting services with the firm of Ronald L. Book, P.A. & Associates, and Florida School Services, Inc., awarded through the Request For Proposals process at the Board's December 14, 2005, regularly scheduled School Board meeting. The contracts will expire on December 31, 2008, and no additional extension periods are available. Therefore, to ensure continued legislative support during the upcoming 2009 state legislative session, a Request For Proposals No. 016-JJ10 was issued by Procurement Management, for state legislative consulting services.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools continues to face many critical legislative issues, including declining revenues. It is anticipated that the 2009 legislative session will be as challenging as in recent years, with education and other interests competing for limited state resources. Therefore, the work of a legislative lobbying team will continue to be of critical importance.

The Selection Committee met to evaluate proposals received in response to the Request For Proposals on December 1, 2008, to consider the six proposals received: Akerman Senterfitt; Becker & Poliakoff, P.A.; Ronald L. Book, P.A.; Florida School Services, Inc.; Floridian Partners, LLC; and Shutts & Bowen LLP. After considerable discussion, based on the submitted documents, the Committee unanimously recommended the following firms to provide legislative consulting services for the period January 1, 2009, through December 31, 2009: Akerman Senterfitt; Becker & Poliakoff, P.A.; Florida School Services, Inc., and Ronald L. Book, P.A.

The consultants will work under the day-to-day direction of Ms. Iraida R. Mendez-Cartaya, Assistant Superintendent, Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, Grants Administration, and Community Services. The cost of the state legislative consulting services shall not exceed \$294,000, inclusive of all fees and expenses, including travel, to be paid in equal monthly installments commencing January 2009. This amount represents approximately 20% reduction of the current contracts for these services.

The contracts may be extended for up to three (3) additional annual terms with the same or modified terms, as mutually agreed upon, after review of the services provided are deemed to be satisfactory.

**RECOMMENDED:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, **AUTHORIZE** the Superintendent to approve the negotiation of contracts for state legislative consulting services, contingent upon exhaustion of the statutory requirements of F.S. 120.57 with the following firms, in an amount not to exceed \$294,000, pursuant to Request For Proposals No. 016-JJ10 – STATE LEGISLATIVE CONSULTANT, effective January 1, 2009, through December 31, 2009, as follows:

1. **AKERMAN SENTERFITT**  
**ONE S.E. THIRD AVENUE, 28<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR**  
**MIAMI, FL 33131**  
**PRINCIPAL: MICHAEL I. ABRAMS**

**BECKER & POLIAKOFF, P.A.**  
**3111 STIRLING ROAD**  
**FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33132**  
**PRINCIPAL: YOLANDA CASH JACKSON**

FLORIDA SCHOOL SERVICES, INC.  
9737 N.W. 41 STREET, BOX 359  
DORAL, FL 33178  
PRINCIPAL: THOMAS A. CERRA

RONALD L. BOOK, P.A.  
18851 N.E. 29 AVENUE, SUITE 1010  
AVENTURA, FL 33180  
PRINCIPAL: RONALD L. BOOK

2. Allow the Superintendent to renew the contracts with the state legislative consultants for up to three successive one-year extensions under the same terms and conditions or modified terms, as mutually agreed upon, after reviewing the services provided are deemed to be satisfactory, with notification to the Board.

RHH/ae