

Milagros R. Fornell, Associate Superintendent
Curriculum and Instruction

SUBJECT: REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS TO SUBMIT RENEWALS FOR MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS ADD-ON CERTIFICATION PROGRAM FOR AUTISM, GIFTED AND READING ENDORSEMENTS TO THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL

COMMITTEE: SCHOOL SUPPORT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

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

Authorization is requested to allow the Superintendent of Schools to submit the mandated renewals for Miami-Dade County Public Schools (District) Autism, Gifted and Reading Add-on Certification Endorsement Programs to the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) for review and approval.

The Autism, Gifted and Reading Add-on Endorsement programs provide rigorous professional development that gives our teachers the opportunity to complete required coursework which will insure that instructional personnel teaching Autism, Gifted and Reading, have the ability to deliver high-quality, standards-based instruction to our students. The endorsement programs provide a mutual benefit to instructional personnel and the District: teachers can meet certification requirements without incurring the costs of taking college/university courses and the District can increase the number of teachers who are qualified in high-need instructional areas. Each endorsement class is the equivalent of a three-credit college course. The District's *Add-on Certification Program for Autism Endorsement* includes the mandated courses provided in State Board Rule 6A-4.01796, Florida Administrative Code, *Specialization Requirements for Endorsement in Autism-Academic Class*. The program includes four (4) 60 hour courses and covers the following topics: assessment and diagnosis, behavioral management and positive behavior supports, assistive technology, and a field experience with students with autism spectrum disorders. So far this school year, 315 teachers have taken or are currently enrolled in an Autism endorsement class.

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The District's *Add-on Certification Program for Gifted Endorsement* includes the mandated courses provided in State Board Rule 6A-4.017971, Florida Administrative Code, *Specialization Requirements for the Gifted Endorsement - Academic Class*. The program includes five (5) 60 hour courses and covers the following topics: nature and needs of the gifted, curriculum development, creativity theory, and guidance and counseling the gifted child. So far this school year, 1,005 teachers have taken or are currently enrolled in a gifted endorsement class.

The District's *Add-on Certification Program for Reading Endorsement* fulfills the mandates for specialization requirements in reading as stated in State Board Rule 6A-4.0292, Florida Administrative Code, *Specialization Requirements for the Reading Endorsement - Academic Class*. The Reading Endorsement program provides teachers with the skills and competencies needed to identify reading problems, provide required reading interventions and assist with the improvement of every child's reading ability. The program includes five (5) 60 hour courses and covers the following topics: foundations in language and cognition, research-based practices, assessment and differentiated instruction. A practicum is required for the reading endorsement. So far this school year, 2,388 teachers have taken or are currently enrolled in a reading endorsement class.

Costs for the delivery of the above-referenced endorsement programs are earmarked for professional development via entitlement programs.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent of Schools to submit the renewals for the Miami-Dade County Public Schools Add-on Certification Program for Autism, Gifted and Reading Endorsements to the Florida Department of Education for review and approval.

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