

Vera Hirsh, Assistant Superintendent
Human Resources, Recruiting and Performance Management

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION FOR THE
SUPERINTENDENT TO ENTER INTO A COLLABORATIVE
AGREEMENT BETWEEN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC
SCHOOLS AND TEACH FOR AMERICA, INC. FOR THE
TEACH FOR AMERICA PROGRAM FOR THE 2009-2010
SCHOOL YEAR WITH ANNUAL RENEWALS FOR THE
2010-2011 AND 2011-2012 SCHOOL YEARS**

COMMITTEE: SCHOOL SUPPORT ACCOUNTABILITY

**LINK TO DISTRICT
STRATEGIC PLAN: GENERAL OPERATIONS**

Authorization is requested to enter into a new collaborative agreement between Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) and the Teach For America Program (TFA) for one cohort of TFA teachers commencing in the 2009-2010 school year with the option of annual contract renewals for subsequent cohorts commencing in the 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 school years. TFA is the national corps of outstanding recent college graduates who commit two years to teach in urban and rural public schools in the nation's lowest-income communities and become lifelong leaders for expanding educational opportunity.

Over the past six school years, TFA has effectively recruited and selected teachers to fill M-DCPS's most difficult-to-staff school and subject-area vacancies. As part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the Florida Department of Education has recently recognized TFA as a core tenet of its strategic guidance for Districts. This strategy, in accordance with Florida's Differentiated Accountability model, promotes the use of Title I funding to support the TFA program.

Funding for this collaborative agreement will be provided through Title I. The cost for the 2009-2010 cohort of TFA teachers is \$1650 per teacher. This amount represents a no cost increase from the prior 2006 TFA contract. The number of TFA teachers brought into the District in this cohort and subsequent cohorts will be determined by the District's needs on an annual basis.

On March 10, 2009, in accordance with School Board Rule 6Gx13- 3F-1.021, Request for Proposals and 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 these agencies have specific expertise in this field.

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As a result of this proposed collaborative agreement for 2009-2010, TFA will:

- continue to assist the District in identifying and hiring highly qualified teachers from an ethnically and racially diverse corps of highly sought-after college graduates recruited by Teach For America, Inc.;
- provide the District up to an additional 65 teachers to begin the 2009-2010 school year and, upon annual renewals, up to an additional 100 teachers to begin the 2010-2011 school year and up to an additional 150 teachers to begin the 2011-2012 school year; and
- provide staff development and related support services to TFA teachers in the areas of instructional leadership, instructional planning and delivery, classroom management and culture, and literacy development.

The cost of this collaborative agreement in the 2009-2010 school year, excluding teacher salaries and benefits, will not exceed \$107,250.

All TFA teachers will be highly qualified under the provisions of the No Child Left Behind Act prior to entering the classroom. Further, these teachers will be afforded access to the District's Alternative Certification Program.

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

1. grant an exception to Board Rule 6Gx13- 3F-1.021, Request for Proposals and Professional Services Contracts, for Teach For America, Inc., based on specific expertise; and
2. enter into a contractual agreement between Miami-Dade County Public Schools and Teach For America, Inc., commencing the 2009-2010 school year not to exceed \$107,250, renewable for two consecutive years, pursuant to satisfactory evaluation results.