

Milagros R. Fornell, Associate Superintendent
Curriculum and Instruction

SUBJECT: REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT TO ENTER INTO COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS WITH SELECTED BUSINESS SITES TO FACILITATE THE OPERATION OF A PROJECT SEARCH SCHOOL-TO-WORK PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2012, THROUGH JUNE 30, 2015

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

LINK TO DISTRICT STRATEGIC PLAN: EDUCATION

Authorization is requested for the Superintendent to enter into cooperative agreements with selected business sites to facilitate the operation of the Project SEARCH school-to-work program for students with disabilities, effective July 1, 2012, through June 30, 2015. The initial cooperative agreement for the program was approved by the School Board in 2008.

Project SEARCH is a one year, full-time, high school transition program which provides training and education for students with disabilities who: are pursuing a special diploma; have met all graduation requirements; and have employability skills as their transition goal and employment as their post-secondary outcome. The program is designed for 12 students per site, aged 18 – 22, and involves total immersion in non-paid work training at the designated business locations. Students will receive course credits in employability skills while participating in this teacher-directed field experience.

Project SEARCH is currently implemented at: the City of Miami Riverside Center, located at 444 S.W. 2 Avenue, Miami, FL 33130; Zoo Miami, located at 12400 SW 152nd Street, Miami, FL 33177; and Hialeah City Hall, located at 501 Palm Avenue, Hialeah, FL 33010. Additional business sites may be added to serve additional students.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) will provide teachers and paraprofessionals, instructional materials, equipment and supplies. The business sites, along with their partners, will provide the worksites, job coach services, support from their employees at the training sites, and an opportunity for employment following the training year.

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These programs are supported and evaluated by administrative and support staff from the Division of Special Education. The evaluations include site visits and monitoring student records and program delivery requirements.

There is no exchange of funds.

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

1. enter into cooperative agreements at selected business sites to facilitate the operation of a Project SEARCH school-to-work program for students with disabilities, effective July 1, 2012, through June 30, 2015; and
2. add additional sites as needed.

MRF/las