



This program is evaluated by administrative and support staff from the Division of Special Education. The evaluation includes school site visits and review of Best Buddies records and reports.

The Professional Services Contract Committee established by School Board Policy 6320, Professional Services Contracts, reviewed this contract on April 26, 2012, and recommended that an exception to the rule regarding bids or Request for Proposals be granted as Best Buddies International, Inc., has specific expertise in this field, as demonstrated by its recognized international programs.

Funding for this item is through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). No General Funds are required.

The appropriation for this item will be included in the Other Federal Programs Fund (Contracted Programs Fund) of the 2012-2013 Tentative Budget to be recommended for adoption on July 2012, under Fund 42000, Function 520000, Program 31070000, Object 531000, Location 1961500.

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

1. enter into a contractual agreement with Best Buddies International, Inc., to provide a program which increases one-to-one friendship opportunities for students with and without intellectual disabilities in 17 middle schools, in an amount not to exceed \$98,600, effective July 1, 2012, through June 30, 2013 with an option to renew for two additional one-year periods, contingent upon availability of funds; and
2. grant an exception pursuant to School Board Policy 6320 based on specific expertise.

The appropriation for this item will be included in the Other Federal Programs Fund (Contracted Programs Fund) of the 2012-2013 Tentative Budget to be recommended for adoption in July 2012.

MRF/las