

Milagros R. Fornell, Associate Superintendent  
Curriculum and Instruction

**SUBJECT:                   REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT WITH THE LEARNING ALLY, INC., FORMERLY KNOWN AS FLORIDA UNIT OF RECORDING FOR THE BLIND & DYSLEXIC (RFB&D), TO PROVIDE ANNUAL INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIPS, CONDUCT OUTREACH ACTIVITIES, PROVIDE LIBRARY SERVICES, AND PRODUCE REQUIRED DIGITAL AUDIO BOOKS, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$114,000, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2012, THROUGH JUNE 30, 2013**

**COMMITTEE:               INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

**LINK TO DISTRICT STRATEGIC PLAN:       EDUCATION**

Authorization is requested for the Superintendent to enter into a contractual agreement with Learning Ally, Inc., to provide annual institutional memberships, conduct outreach activities, provide library services, and produce required digital audio books for use by schools and individual students, in an amount not to exceed \$ 114,000, effective July 1, 2012, through June 30, 2013. Through extensive negotiations by District staff the cost of the program was reduced by 43%, resulting in substantial cost savings to the District.

Learning Ally, Inc. is part of a national nonprofit organization which provides recorded textbooks and trade books, library services, and other educational resources to individuals who cannot effectively read standard print because of a visual, physical, or learning disability. Training will be provided by Learning Ally outreach staff to teachers, other school personnel, parents, and students on the use of audio materials for students with disabilities. This agreement is funded through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). No General Funds are required.

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 School Board Policy regarding bids or Request for Proposals be granted as Learning Ally, Inc., as the sole source provider of these services.

The program is monitored by administrative staff from the Division of Special Education.

**C-2**

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, under Fund 420000, Function 520000, Program 31070000, Object 531000, Location 1961500.

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

1. enter into a contractual agreement with Learning Ally, Inc., to provide annual institutional memberships, conduct outreach activities, provide library services, and produce required digital audio books, in an amount not to exceed \$114,000 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, for Learning Ally, Inc., based on sole source.

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/amm