

Valtena G. Brown, Chief Operating Officer  
School Operations

**SUBJECT: REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT TO ACCEPT A DONATION OF 35 SCHOLARSHIP TRIPS TO SPAIN FROM EF EDUCATIONAL TOURS AND AUTHORIZATION FOR STUDENTS TO TRAVEL OUT-OF-COUNTRY**

**COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

**LINK TO STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK: EDUCATION**

Miami-Dade County Public Schools has been chosen to receive 35 trips to Spain during the spring recess, March 25 through March 29, 2013, for 30 students and five chaperones as part of a five year proposal presented by the Superintendent to EF Educational Tours at a value of \$87,500.

These scholarship trips will bring the classroom to life by providing students the opportunity to be educated about the sites and cultures they have studied through various curricula. The trips will provide students with an opportunity that otherwise might not have been available to them.

Authorization is also requested for students to travel out-of-country. All arrangements are in accordance with School Board Policy 2340 - Field and Other District-Sponsored Trips and with School Board Policy 8640 – Transportation for Field and Other District-Sponsored Trips.

School	Destination	Date	Approximate # of Students/ Chaperones	Cost	Airline	Educational Purpose
Hialeah Sr., Homestead Sr., Miami Coral Park Sr., Miami Edison Sr., Miami Norland Sr., Robert Morgan Sr.	Madrid and Toledo, Spain	3/25/13 to 3/29/13  No School Days	30 / 5	0	American Airlines or another major carrier	This trip will bring the classroom to life by providing students the opportunity to be educated about the sites and cultures they have studied throughout various curricula.

These schools were selected using a matrix of diverse factors including but not limited to economic factors and school's prior accessibility to international field trips. Students were selected by a school-based committee which utilized uniform criteria for the selection of the participating students.

The students and teachers participating in the trip will be registered with the U.S. Department of State by utilizing their on-line Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) which is a free service provided by the United States Government. By registering trip participants with STEP, the Department of State can better assist them in an emergency.

The students will provide a written report to their respective principals summarizing the highlights, experiences and educational value of the trip. The reports will also be posted on the schools' websites for other students to review.

**RECOMMENDED:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida:

1. authorize the Superintendent to accept a donation of 35 scholarship trips to Spain from EF Educational Tours. The scholarships are valued at \$87,500; and
2. approve the out-of-country field trip to Spain for students at Hialeah, Homestead, Miami Coral Park, Miami Edison, Miami Norland and Robert Morgan senior high schools.

VGB:al