

Valtena G. Brown, Chief Operating Officer
 School Operations

SUBJECT: REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT TO ACCEPT A DONATION OF 42 SCHOLARSHIPS FOR A TRIP TO COSTA RICA 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 once again to receive 42 scholarships as part of a five-year proposal presented by the Superintendent to EF Educational Tours at a value of \$87,500. This year, the number of student scholarships was increased by 20% with one additional chaperone. Thirty-six students and six chaperones will have the opportunity to travel to Costa Rica during the 2014 summer break, July 21 through July 26, 2014.

This trip 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 trip 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
American Sr. M. Killian Sr. M. Northwestern Sr. Miami Sr. M. Springs Sr. N. Miami Beach Sr.	San Jose, Monteverde, Arenal Region, and Guanacaste, Costa Rica	7/21/14 to 7/26/14 No School Days	36 / 6	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 such as the school's geographic location and prior out-of-country travel by the school. 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 42 student scholarships for a trip to Costa Rica from EF Educational Tours. The scholarships are valued at \$87,500; and
2. approve the out-of-country field trip to Costa Rica for students at American, Miami Killian, Miami High, Miami Northwestern, Miami Springs, and North Miami Beach senior high schools.

VGB:al