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Office of Human Capital Management

**SUBJECT:                   REQUEST    FOR    AUTHORIZATION    FOR    THE  
SUPERINTENDENT TO ENTER INTO A COLLABORATIVE  
AGREEMENT BETWEEN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC  
SCHOOLS AND TEACH FOR AMERICA, INC. FOR THE  
TEACH FOR AMERICA PROGRAM FOR THE 2015-2016  
SCHOOL YEAR WITH ANNUAL RENEWALS FOR THE 2016-  
2017 AND 2017-2018 SCHOOL YEARS**

**COMMITTEE:               PERSONNEL SERVICES AND STUDENT AND SCHOOL  
SUPPORT**

**LINK TO STRATEGIC  
FRAMEWORK:              SCHOOL/DISTRICT LEADERSHIP**

Authorization is requested to enter into a new collaborative agreement between Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) and Teach For America, Inc. (TFA) for the 2015-2016 school year with annual renewals for the 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 school years. TFA is a national corps of outstanding recent college graduates and experienced professionals with a record of achievement who commit two years to teach in urban and rural public schools in the nation's lowest-income communities. Over the last eleven school years, TFA has effectively recruited and selected teachers to fill vacancies in M-DCPS's most difficult-to-staff schools and subject-areas.

Funding for this collaborative agreement will be provided through Title II. The number of TFA teachers recruited, trained, and hired into the District for the 2015-2016 cohort and subsequent cohorts will be determined by the District's needs on an annual basis.

In accordance with School Board Policy 6320, Purchasing, the agreement with TFA was recommended for exception based on specific expertise in field by the Professional Services Contract Committee in 2009. The contract has been in continuous renewal since its inception. The basis for the granting of this exception has not changed.

As a result of this proposed collaborative agreement for 2015-2016, TFA will:

- Continue to assist the District by recruiting and training highly qualified teachers from an ethnically and racially diverse corps of highly sought-after college graduates and experienced professionals with a record of achievement;

- Provide the District up to 100 teachers to begin the 2015-2016 school year and, upon annual renewal, up to an additional 100 teachers for each of the succeeding two school years; and
- Provide staff development and related support services to TFA teachers in the areas of instructional leadership, instructional planning and delivery, classroom management and culture, and literacy development.

The cost of this collaborative agreement for the 2015-2016 school year, excluding teacher salaries and benefits, will not exceed \$765,000. Upon renewal for each of the succeeding two years of the contract, the cost will not exceed \$680,000 per year. The total three-year cost will not exceed \$2,125,000. The prior three-year contract, awarded through a grant, was funded at a cost of \$5,670,000.

In consideration for the reduced costs and savings provided under this contractual agreement, the District will negotiate a lease of district space to TFA under mutually agreeable terms and conditions for the duration of the contract. The lease agreement will be brought to the Board for approval at a subsequent meeting.

All TFA teachers will be highly qualified under the provisions of the No Child Left Behind Act prior to entering the classroom. Further, these teachers will be afforded access to the District's Alternative Certification Program.

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

1. Extend the exception previously granted to Teach For America, Inc., for specific expertise in field, in accordance with School Board Policy 6320 and under the Board's authority to make further exceptions on a case-by-case basis;
2. Enter into a contractual agreement between Miami-Dade County Public Schools and Teach For America, Inc., for the 2015-2016 school year not to exceed \$765,000;
3. Renew this contractual agreement annually for up to two additional years, at a cost not to exceed:
  - a. \$680,000 for the 2016-2017 school year;
  - b. \$680,000 for the 2017-2018 school year; and
4. Negotiate and present to the Board, for approval at a subsequent meeting, a lease agreement to provide District space to Teach For America, Inc., under mutually agreeable terms and conditions for the duration of the contract.