

Marie Izquierdo, Chief Academic Officer
Office of Academics and Transformation

**SUBJECT: REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT
TO ENTER INTO COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS WITH
SELECTED BUSINESS ENTITIES TO FACILITATE THE
OPERATION OF PROJECT SEARCH AND PROJECT
VICTORY SCHOOL-TO-WORK PROGRAMS FOR
STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES, EFFECTIVE JULY 16,
2015, THROUGH JULY 31, 2018**

COMMITTEE: ACADEMICS, EVALUATION & TECHNOLOGY

**LINK TO DISTRICT
STRATEGIC PLAN: EDUCATION**

Authorization is requested for the Superintendent to enter into cooperative agreements with selected business entities and government agencies to facilitate the operation of the Project SEARCH and Project Victory school-to-work programs for students with disabilities, effective July 16, 2015, through July 31, 2018.

Project SEARCH is a one year, full-time, high school transition program that provides training and education for students with disabilities aged 18-22 who are transitioning from school to work. Participating students have met all graduation requirements and have employability skills as their transition goal and employment as their post-secondary outcome. The program accommodates 12 students per site and involves total immersion in non-paid work training at the designated business locations. Students receive course credits in employability skills while participating in this teacher-directed field experience. The program is currently implemented at the City of Miami Riverside Center, Zoo Miami, and Hialeah City Hall. Additional business sites may be added to serve more students.

Similarly, Project Victory serves senior high school students with disabilities aged 16-22 who are transitioning from school to employment. The program supports students by providing non-paid work experiences at selected community businesses. Students receive course credits in employability skills while participating in a half-day teacher-directed field experience at sites located throughout the county. During the 2014-2015 school year, students with disabilities from 39 senior high schools and educational centers worked at 15 Project Victory business sites as part of the program. Additional business sites may be added, as needed.

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Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) will provide teachers and paraprofessionals, instructional materials, equipment and supplies. The business entities, along with their partners, will provide worksites, job coach services, training and support from their employees. Participating students may have opportunities for employment following the training year.

These programs are supported and evaluated by administrative and support staff from the Division of Exceptional Student Education. The evaluations include site visits and monitoring of student records and program delivery requirements.

There is no exchange of funds.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to enter into cooperative agreements with selected business entities to facilitate the operation of the Project SEARCH and Project Victory school-to-work programs for students with disabilities, effective July 16, 2015, through July 31, 2018, and add additional sites as needed.

MI/noc