

Marie Izquierdo, Chief Academic Officer
Office of Academics and Accountability

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) BETWEEN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS (M-DCPS) AND FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY (FIU) TO PROVIDE A BILINGUAL EDUCATION GRADUATE CERTIFICATE PROGRAM AT THE MASTERS LEVEL

COMMITTEE: ACADEMICS, EVALUATION AND TECHNOLOGY

LINK TO STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK: EDUCATION

In accordance with a collaborative agreement between Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCSP) and Florida International University (FIU), the implementation of a certified program, Bilingual Education, has been established for Extended Foreign Language (EFL) teachers in grades K-5 to support Bilingual education for student achievement in M-DCPS classrooms. Representatives from the Office of Academics and Transformation, the Office of Human Resources, and the Office of Labor Relations and the College of Education at Florida International University, have met to formulate the plan designed to identify job-embedded graduate program requirements, entrance requirements and course descriptions relative to these three subjects.

The Memorandum of Understanding is attached as Exhibit A.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve the proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Miami-Dade County Public Schools and Florida International University (FIU) to implement the Bilingual Education Graduate Certificate Program at the Masters level in Bilingual Education.

**Miami-Dade County Public Schools and Florida International University
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

**Bilingual Education Graduate Certificate
INITIATIVE**

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) confirms the collaborative agreement held between The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, a political subdivision of the State of Florida, and The Florida International University Board of Trustees, on behalf of Florida International University's College of Education ("the University"), a public university regarding the establishment and implementation of the Bilingual Education Graduate Certificate which consists of the following 3 components: 1) Job-Embedded Graduate Program Participants, 2) Entrance Requirements and 3) Course Descriptions.

Thirty (30) M-DCPS teachers will be selected to participate. The parties agree to the following provisions:

1. Job-Embedded Graduate Program Participants

- A total of 30 full-time teachers currently assigned to grades K-5 will be selected to complete a certificate program at the Masters level in Bilingual Education.
- Teachers shall remain in full-time teaching positions in K-5 classrooms while participating in the program.
- Selected teachers must sign a Bilingual Initiative Certificate Participation Commitment letter stating they will complete the certificate program.
- Teachers who are terminated will no longer be eligible to participate in the program.
- Teachers who are not recommended for re-employment will no longer be eligible to participate in the program.
- Teachers must maintain a 3.0 GPA average. Grades below a "C" must be retaken at participant's expense. If an incomplete (I) is issued for a course, the participant will be dropped until they have successfully completed the course with a grade of "C" or higher.
- Tuition reimbursement will be paid by M-DCPS as long as the participant meets the certificate program requirements. Participants will be reimbursed for up to twelve (12) graduate credits per year in accordance with Article XXV, Section 5, Tuition Reimbursement for Certificated Employees of the M-DCPS/UTD contract incorporated herein by reference. In an event that a participant must repeat a course and pay for the course on their own, the participant may be eligible for tuition reimbursement per the standard policies for tuition reimbursement. The program does not include the cost of books or course materials. The certificate program will be renewed annually contingent upon available funding and participant compliance with requirements.
- Teachers currently in accredited graduate programs may apply to this program. However, participants must complete the full 15 credit hour, 5 course program through Florida International University's graduate program.
- Selection priority will be given to teachers who will create a Bilingual cohort at their school site.

- Teachers will receive a Certificate of Completion from Florida International University (FIU) in Bilingual Education when they have completed and passed all 5 courses.

2. Entrance Requirements

The requirements for acceptance into the Bilingual Education Graduate Certificate program includes:

- Bachelor's degree;
- 3.0 GPA in the last 60 credits of upper division undergraduate coursework; and,
- Two letters of reference, including the recommendation of the school site administrator.

3. Course Descriptions

Program Description:

The intended certificate program will provide emphasis on improving K-5 Extended Foreign Language (EFL) classroom teachers' strategies and skills in dual language settings. The certificate program will consist of 5 courses (15 credits) focused on research-based cutting-edge and innovative methodologies and techniques, with several courses offered completely in Spanish or in a bilingual English-Spanish format. The program of studies includes three core classes and electives that can be selected from a variety of courses related to teaching methods and studies in bilingualism as outlined below:

Core classes (9 credits)

COURSES	CREDIT
FLE 5895 – Bilingual Education Teaching Methodologies	3*
FLE 6938 - Seminar in Second Language Testing	3
EDG 5707 - Cross-cultural Studies	3

Note: *Taught in Spanish and/or in a bilingual format

Teaching Methods (3 credits)

COURSES	CREDIT
FLE 6336 – Methods of Teaching Modern Language	3
FLE 6925 – Special Topics in Second Language Learning: Curriculum Development in the Spanish Language Classroom	3*
FOL 5943 – Foreign Language Teaching Methodology	3
TSL 6348 – Task-Based Language Teaching	3

Note: Students choose one of the above courses

*Taught in Spanish and/or in a bilingual format

Studies in Bilingualism (3 credits)

COURSES	CREDIT
LIN 5625 – Studies in Bilingualism	3
SPN 5736 – Spanish as a Heritage Language	3*
FLE 6925 – Special Topics in Second Language Education	3*

Note: Students choose one of the above courses

*Taught in Spanish and/or in a bilingual format

Core classes (9 credits)

- **FLE 5895 Bilingual Education Teaching Methodologies (3)***
Examination of various approaches to bilingual education, including specific school and classroom organizations. Development of specific instructional strategies for bilingual students. Issues in elementary, secondary, adult, vocational, and special education will also be addressed.
- **FLE 6938 Seminar in Second Language Testing (3)**
Advanced study and research on current topics and issues in the field of second language education. Variety of topics to include language testing. Language proficiency, language and society, bilingual - bicultural education, and error analysis and the language learner.
- **EDG 5707 Cross-cultural Studies (3)**
This is an overview of immigration patterns in U.S., discussions of theories of ethnicity, acculturation, and intercultural communication. Development of teaching strategies for multicultural classrooms. Multicultural issues in elementary, secondary, adult, vocational, and special education will also be addressed.

Teaching Methods (3 credits) - Students choose one of the following courses:

- **FLE 6336 Methods of Teaching Modern Language (3)**
A modern study of language learning and teaching from the theoretical and practical points of view, including the evaluation and development of techniques and materials for second language teaching. Prerequisites: LIN 3010 or ENG 3500 or equivalent.
- **FLE 6925 Special Topics in Second Language Learning: Curriculum Development in the Spanish Language Classroom (3)***
Focusing on academic content, this course addresses how to teach math, science, social studies, language arts and any other subject in Spanish, with an emphasis on Spanish textbook academic nomenclature. It takes academic language and puts it into a contextualized frame to help students get the full benefit of being bilingual, biliterate and bicultural.
- **FOL 5943 Foreign Language Teaching Methodology (3)**
Explores communicative approaches to foreign language teaching and learning. Prerequisite: Graduate standing.
- **TSL 6348 Task-Based Language Teaching (3)**
Introduction to task-based approaches to language teaching and learning. Emphasis is on researching and learning how to design tasks to maximize second language acquisition in the classroom.

Studies in Bilingualism (3 credits) - Students choose one of the following courses:

- **LIN 5625 Studies in Bilingualism (3)**
Readings and analysis of bilingual programs and binational goals. Prerequisites: LIN 3010, LIN 3013, LIN 5018 or the equivalent.
- **SPN 5736 Spanish as a Heritage Language (3)***
Examines applied linguistics research and practice concerning acquisition, retention and literacy development of Spanish as a minority or heritage language in the United States. Prerequisites: LIN 3010, LIN 3013, SPN 3733 or equivalent or permission of instructor.

- **FLE 6925 Special Topics in Second Language Education (3)***
Production and application of materials and techniques in second language education in a laboratory or field setting.

***Taught in Spanish and/or in a bilingual format**

Program Highlights

- May be completed in three (3) semesters.
- All courses are currently in the FIU Graduate catalog thus teachers may start in the near future.
- Possibility of three (3) of the courses taught in Spanish and/or in a bilingual format.
- All earned credits may be applied toward a Master of Science degree in Curriculum & Instruction, Foreign Language Education or Urban Education.
- Courses can be offered at a central, convenient location for district educators.

Duration, Renew and Annual Review

- This MOU is established for three (3) years, August 1, 2015 – July 31, 2018, and can be amended by any Party on demand, provided that at least six months' notice is given in writing.
- During the term of this Memorandum of Understanding any Party may suggest provisions for its improvement by way of but not limited to addenda when agreed upon by all Parties.
- The Bilingual Education Graduate Certificate Initiative is subject to on-going program evaluation, funding and reviews.
- The parties agree to meet and review the funding and implementation of this program annually or at the request of either party.
- FIU understands that maintaining the necessary courses to support this Program is vital to the success of the Program and thus agrees to offer the courses listed herein throughout the duration of this Program.

General Terms

- Either Party reserves the right to terminate this Agreement without cause by giving thirty (30) days written notice to the other Party.
- This Agreement shall be governed by, and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Florida. In the event of litigation, venue for any claim shall lie exclusively in a court of competent jurisdiction in Miami-Dade County. All parties shall be responsible for their own attorneys' fees.
- This Agreement shall be subject to Florida's Public Records Laws, Chapter 119, Florida Statutes.
- This Agreement may not be assigned.
- Any notice required or permitted to be given under this agreement by one party to the other party shall be in writing and shall be given and deemed to have been given immediately if delivered in person to the recipient's address set forth in this section or on the date shown on the certificate of receipt if placed in the United States mail, postage prepaid, by registered or certified mail with return receipt requested, addressed to the receiving party at the address hereinafter specified.

Contractor/Vendor Address

The address for the University for all purposes under this agreement and for all notices hereunder shall be:

Elizabeth M. Bejar
Vice President – Academic Affairs
Florida International University
11200 SW 8th Street
Miami, FL 33199

With a copy to:

Delia Garcia
Dean, College of Education
Florida International University
11200 SW 8th Street
Miami, FL 33199

School Board's Address. The address for the School Board for all purposes under this Agreement and for all notices hereunder shall be:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida
Attn: Alberto M. Carvalho, Superintendent
1450 N.E. Second Avenue, Suite 912
Miami, Florida 33132

With a copy to:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida
Department of Bilingual Education and World Languages
Attn: Ms. Melba Brito, Administrative Director
1501 N.E. 2 Avenue, Suite 341
Miami, Florida 33132

And a copy to:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida
Attn: Walter J. Harvey, School Board Attorney
1450 N.E. Second Avenue, Suite 430
Miami, Florida 33132

- Subject to the limitations of Florida Statute 768.28, The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, hereinafter referred to as the School Board agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the University from and against any and all claims, suits, actions, damages, or causes of action arising out of the negligent acts of The School Board arising out of or in connection with the provisions of this agreement. The School Board is a state agency or subdivision as defined in section 768.28, Florida Statutes; nothing herein shall be construed to extend the School Board's liability beyond that provided in section 768.28, Florida Statutes.

- Subject to the limitations of Florida Statute 768.28, the University agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the School Board from and against any and all claims, suits, actions, damages, or causes of action arising out of the negligent acts of the University arising out of or in connection with the provisions of this agreement. The University is a state agency or subdivision as defined in section 768.28, Florida Statutes; nothing herein shall be construed to extend the University's liability beyond that provided in section 768.28, Florida Statutes

DATED at Miami, Florida this 5 day of August, 2015.

**THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE
COUNTY, FLORIDA**

**FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Mr. Alberto M. Carvalho Date
Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Mark Rosenberg Date
President

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY

School Board Attorney

Risk Management Date