

Marie Izquierdo, Chief Academic Officer  
Office of Academics and Transformation

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT TO NEGOTIATE  
AND EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH RACHEL'S  
CHALLENGE**

**COMMITTEE: ACADEMICS, EVALUATION AND TECHNOLOGY**

**LINK TO STRATEGIC  
BLUEPRINT: SAFE, HEALTHY AND SUPPORTING LEARNING  
ENVIRONMENT**

Rachel Joy Scott was the first person killed in the Columbine High School tragedy on April 20, 1999. Immediately after the tragedy, her father Darrell began to speak and use writings and drawings from Rachel's diaries to illustrate the need for a kinder, more compassionate nation. Rachel's Challenge is a national non-profit organization dedicated to creating safe, connected school environments where learning and teaching is maximized. Rachel's Challenge includes a series of student-empowering, educator-motivating programs and strategies called the *Awaken the Learner Five-Step School Improvement Process* based on the writings of Rachel. The process equips students and adults with the tools to create and sustain safe, caring and supportive learning environments essential for academic achievement. The foundation of this process is contained in the book, **Awaken the Learner: Finding the Source of Effective Education**, co-authored by Darrell Scott and Dr. Robert Marzano.

The partnership with Rachel's Challenge will focus on a very important component of school improvement: improving the climate and culture at every school. The program will empower students and staff to make the school friendlier, kinder, and safer. This will be accomplished through staff and student training, curriculum resources, student assemblies, and professional development. In addition, this partnership will expand relationships with the business community and will provide additional opportunities for students to participate in positive programming and reach their full potential.

This program will be implemented in 18 of the District's middle schools. Andover Middle, Brownsville Middle, Carol City Middle, Citrus Grove Middle, Cutler Bay Middle, Georgia Jones-Ayers Middle, Henry H. Filer Middle, Hialeah Middle, Homestead Middle, Horace Mann Middle, Jose de Diego Middle, Madison Middle, Norland Middle, North Dade Middle, North Miami Middle, Redland Middle, Richmond Heights Middle, and Thomas Jefferson Middle.

The cost associated with partnering with Rachel's Challenge is \$89,900.

**RECOMMENDED:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to negotiate and execute a contract with Rachel's Challenge and approve its implementation at the following 18 middle schools: Andover Middle, Brownsville Middle, Carol City Middle, Citrus Grove Middle, Cutler Bay Middle, Georgia Jones-Ayers Middle, Henry H. Filer Middle, Hialeah Middle, Homestead Middle, Horace Mann Middle, Jose de Diego Middle, Madison Middle, Norland Middle, North Dade Middle, North Miami Middle, Redland Middle, Richmond Heights Middle and Thomas Jefferson Middle, at a cost not to exceed \$89,900.00.