

Marie Izquierdo, Chief Academic Officer
Office of Academics and Transformation

SUBJECT: REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS TO ENTER INTO CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT WITH MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED, INC., IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$355,307.36 EFFECTIVE AUGUST 1, 2016, THROUGH JUNE 30, 2017, CONTINGENT UPON APPROVAL OF THE 2016-2017 DISTRICT BUDGET

COMMITTEE: ACADEMICS, EVALUATION & TECHNOLOGY

LINK TO STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT: RELEVANT, RIGOROUS AND INNOVATE ACADEMICS

Authorization is requested for the Superintendent of Schools to enter into contractual agreement with Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Inc. to provide educational services to pre-kindergarten students who are visually impaired as per their Individual Educational Plan (IEP). The program is designed to meet the diverse needs of this population via the provision of center-based services.

The Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Inc. will be responsible for the day-to-day operation of the program, facilities, staff assistance with the identification and placement of children, staff development training, and administrative support. In support of these services, Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) will provide assistance with the identification and placement of eligible children and monitoring to ensure compliance with applicable laws and rules.

An exception to School Board Policy 6320 regarding bids or Request for Proposals should be granted as this agency is providing educational services to support visually impaired students.

Funding for the agency is based on program delivery models as outlined below:

Funding for these services will come from 80% of the Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) generated from the Florida Education Finance Program based on the level of services needed for each child listed in the IEP. The remaining 20% of the FTE will cover ancillary services/costs.

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The appropriation for this item will be included in the General Fund of the 2016-2017 Tentative Budget under Fund 100000, Funds Center 1901300, Program 68400000, Function 521700, and Commitment 531000 to be recommended for adoption in July 2016, contingent upon approval of the 2016-2017 District Budget.

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

1. enter into a contractual agreement with Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Inc. to operate educational programs for visually impaired children, in an amount not to exceed \$355,307.36, effective August 1, 2016, through June 30, 2017, contingent upon approval of the 2016-2017 District Budget.
2. utilize an exception stated within School Board Policy 6320, based on the provision of educational and health related services to support students with significant disabilities.

The appropriation for this item will be included in the General Fund of the 2016-2017 Tentative Budget to be recommended for adoption in July 2016, contingent upon approval of the 2016-2017 District Budget.

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