

Lisa M. Martinez, Chief Strategy Officer

SUBJECT: AUTHORIZE THE RENEWAL OF THE COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT TO INCLUDE THE FOUNDATION FOR NEW EDUCATION INITIATIVES AND MIAMI-DADE COUNTY FOR THE CONTINUED IMPLEMENTATION OF TOGETHER FOR CHILDREN'S EVIDENCE-BASED REFERRAL AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT SYSTEM

COMMITTEE: FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY & GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

LINK TO STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT: INFORMED, ENGAGED & EMPOWERED STAKEHOLDERS

On January 16, 2018 The Children's Trust (Trust) passed a resolution authorizing \$1,320,000 for an 18-month renewal contract expanding support of the Together for Children (TFC) referral and family case management system. On February 6, 2018, Miami-Dade County (County) also authorized continuation funding. This item authorizes the renewal of the Cooperative Agreement among partners including the Trust, the County, the District and Foundation for New Education Initiatives (FNEI) to implement the following component:

- Thirty-nine elementary and K-8 schools with high chronic absenteeism rates in twenty-three zip codes will participate in the iAttend Truancy Prevention Program. The increased funding has allowed for expansion to an additional six elementary schools. The program has one coordinator, two data specialists and 16 TFC family advocates (interventionists) that make home visits, coordinate cross-sector family support meetings, develop attendance action plans for students facing five or more unexcused absences, and conduct attendance success meetings with those students who are not compulsory age or have excessive excused absences.
- Students between the ages of 11 and 16, living in the twenty-three identified zip codes and facing attendance, behavior and academic challenges will have a chance to participate in a referral service-based assessment program facilitated by the Miami-Dade County Juvenile Services Department (JSD). Employing data drawn from the District's Early Warning Indicator System, M-DCPS, JSD, and service providers as needed, work closely together to support and develop a Service Plan to address the individualized needs of the child and/or his/her family. Interventions may include, but are not limited to: evidenced-based family therapy models, individual/group counseling, tutoring, mentoring, employment and appropriate out-of-school programming.

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One full-time interventionist funded by the County will act as liaison between JSD and TFC School Champions on behalf of School Operations.

- M-DCPS's One Stop Educational and Community Service Center (One-Stop Centers) partners with JSD, DJJ, the Department of Children and Families and numerous community-based organizations to provide transitional support for at-risk, high-promise youth with a focus on strengthened educational placement and decreased recidivism rates. Three Wrap Around Service Specialists work with DJJ in implementing the Electronic Educational Exit Plan (EEEP) for students referred by DJJ's Commitment Program. Two of the three specialists are funded by the County. Through the One Stop Transition Database, the Wrap-Around Service Specialists monitors follow-up and case management, working directly with school counselors and service providers.

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

1. execute the renewal of the Cooperative Agreement to include the Foundation for New Education Initiatives and Miami-Dade County to implement the evidence-based referral and family engagement system, as well as amendments, extensions, and renewals of such agreements and documents to implement the program; and exercise termination, waiver, and other provisions set forth therein; and
2. provide a report on the progress of the Together for Children initiative on an annual basis.

LMM/sm