

Ms. Lourdes Diaz, Chief Academic Officer
Office of Academics and Transformation

SUBJECT: REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO CONTRACTUAL SERVICE AGREEMENTS WITH SIX COMMUNITY AGENCIES TO OPERATE PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$5,552,364.00 EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026, THROUGH JUNE 30, 2027, CONTINGENT UPON APPROVAL OF THE 2026-2027 DISTRICT BUDGET

COMMITTEE: ACADEMICS, INNOVATION, EVALUATION AND TECHNOLOGY

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN: SAFE, HEALTHY AND SUPPORTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Authorization is requested for the Superintendent to enter into contractual agreements with six community agencies to provide extensive educational and/or therapeutic services to a unique population of children with disabilities which includes cocaine-exposed, Down Syndrome, cerebral palsy, spina bifida, intellectual disabilities, autism spectrum disorder as well as visual and hearing impairments.

Each agency will be responsible for the day-to-day operation of the programs, 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.

During the 2025-2026 school year, facility reviews and monitoring of children's records and program delivery models by District staff found the programs to be effective in providing early intervention services and to comply with the Individual with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requirements.

An exception to School Board Policy 6320 regarding bids or Request for Proposals should be granted as these six community agencies are providing educational and related services to support students with significant disabilities.

C-2

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

Agency	# of Students	Funding Amount
Association for Retarded Citizens of South Florida, Inc. dba The ARC of South Florida	A maximum of 137 B-2 children	In an amount not to exceed \$1,496,404
Easter Seals South Florida, Inc.	A maximum of 72 B-2 children	In an amount not to exceed \$875,609
Miami Lighthouse Academy, LLC.	A maximum of 14 B-2 children A maximum of 10 PK-ESE children A maximum of 30 Kindergarten, 1st – 4th grade children	In an amount not to exceed \$235,997 In an amount not to exceed \$198,585 In an amount not to exceed \$414,638
University of Miami Debbie Institute	A maximum of 61 B-2 children A maximum of 35 PK-2nd grade children	In an amount not to exceed \$684,063 In an amount not to exceed \$578,216
University of Miami, Linda Ray Intervention Center/Department of Psychology	A maximum of 48 B-2 children	In an amount not to exceed \$534,426
United Cerebral Palsy Association of Miami, Inc., dba United Community Options, Inc.	A maximum of 48 B-2 children	In an amount not to exceed \$534,426

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 Individualized Family Support Plan or Individualized Education Plan (IEP). The remaining 20% of the FTE will cover ancillary services/costs.

The appropriation for this item for Birth-to-Two (B-2) and prekindergarten programs for children with disabilities will be included in the General Fund of the 2026-2027 Tentative Budget under Fund 100000, Funds Center 1901300, Program 68400000, Function 521700, and Commitment 531000 to be recommended for adoption in August 2026, contingent upon approval of the 2026-2027 District Budget.

The appropriation for this item for the PK-12 program for students with disabilities will be included in the General Fund of the 2026-2027 Tentative Budget under Fund 100000, Funds Center 1973100, Program 68400000, Function 521700, and Commitment 531000 to be recommended for adoption in August 2026, contingent upon approval of the 2026-2027 District Budget.

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

1. Enter into contractual agreements with six community agencies to operate programs for children with disabilities in an amount not to exceed \$5,552,364 effective July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027, contingent upon approval of the 2026-2027 District Budget, as follows:
 - Association for Retarded Citizens of South Florida, Inc., dba The ARC of South Florida in an amount not to exceed \$1,496,404.
 - Easter Seals South Florida, Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$875,609
 - Miami Lighthouse Academy, LLC, in an amount not to exceed \$849,220 (B-2 contract in an amount not to exceed \$235,997; PK-ESE in an amount not to exceed \$198,585 and Kindergarten through 4th grade in an amount not to exceed \$414,638).
 - University of Miami Debbie Institute, in an amount not to exceed \$1,262,279 (B-2 contract in an amount not to exceed \$684,063 and PK-2nd grade contract in an amount not to exceed \$578,216).
 - University of Miami, Linda Ray Intervention Center/Department of Psychology, in an amount not to exceed \$534,426.
 - United Cerebral Palsy Association of Miami, Inc., dba United Community Options, Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$534,426; and
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 appropriations for this item will be included in the General Fund of the 2026-2027 Tentative Budget to be recommended for adoption in August 2026, contingent upon approval of the 2026-2027 District Budget.

Authorization is also granted to the Superintendent to make adjustments to contracted amounts based on any State changes to the Base Student Allocation.