

Curriculum, Instruction and School Improvement  
Antoinette P. Dunbar, Deputy Superintendent

Business Operations  
Ofelia San Pedro, Deputy Superintendent

**SUBJECT: AUTHORIZATION TO NEGOTIATE AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACTUAL SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, AND EDUCATIONAL TESTING SERVICE, PURSUANT TO REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS NO. 069-FF10 – INTERIM ASSESSMENT INSTRUMENT AND ITEM BANK**

**COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

On January 2005, at the request of School Board member Ms. Ana Rivas-Logan, the School Board approved item B-3, directing the superintendent to develop a plan to streamline the District's assessment program while supporting schools' needs for reliable and valid progress monitoring tools. The action plan, developed in collaboration with field educators and approved by the School Board in June 2005, included the Interim Assessment as one of its components. The purpose of the Interim Assessment Instruments and the Benchmark Assessment Item Bank is to provide uniform, high quality testing tools that can be used to monitor student progress and to assist teachers in targeting reading, mathematics, and science instruction. The Interim Assessment will streamline testing at schools by replacing teacher-produced benchmark tests, as well as school and regional center purchased benchmark tests with a District assessment that is psychometrically valid and reliable for monitoring student progress on the individual benchmarks that are included in the Sunshine State Standards. Additionally, if approved by the Florida Department of Education, the Interim Assessment will replace current progress monitoring tools (i.e., DIBELS and the Oral Reading Fluency Probe) in grades 4-12. Computerized management systems that have already been purchased and placed in the schools will be used to score all the assessments.

REVISED

- The Interim Assessments are multiple-choice tests that will be administered districtwide during the fall, winter, and spring of each school year in grades 3-10 in Reading and Mathematics and grades 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, and 11 in Science. The tests will be aligned to the Sunshine State Standards and the M-DCPS instructional-paced curriculum. Data from the Interim Assessment will be available for each student, and aggregated for the classrooms, regional centers, and the District.

REVISED

**C-21**

- The Item Bank will serve as a classroom assessment tool that teachers can use to monitor student progress after instruction or intervention has taken place on a particular Sunshine State Standard. The item bank will include items assessing all of the Reading, Mathematics, and Science Sunshine State Standards in K-12.

Request For Proposals No. 069-FF10 – INTERIM ASSESSMENT AND ITEM BANK, which was opened on March 30, 2006. The RFP, which was released by the Office of Assessment and Data Analysis, outlines the establishment of interim assessments and an item bank that will assist in identifying areas for instructional improvement. This is a term proposal. The RFP was advertised as well as sent to 40 vendors. Four vendors submitted proposals.

The Evaluation Committee met on April 5, 2006, to evaluate the proposals. Four proposals were presented for consideration: Educational Testing Service, Riverside Publishing, The Princeton Review, Inc., and United Learning Center, Inc. After considerable deliberation, the committee recommended that Educational Testing Service be awarded a contract.

After the School Board approves this item, the District, with input from teachers, principals, and other stakeholders, will design an implementation plan that will address test administration issues, including administration dates, length of the tests, and distribution of the test booklets; use of data to target instruction; professional development for educators; and information for parents/guardians and the community on the use and benefits of this assessment program.

Fund Source  
0100 – General

M/WBE Eligibility  
None

**RECOMMENDED:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, **AUTHORIZE** the Superintendent of Schools, to negotiate and enter into a contractual services agreement between The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, and Educational Testing Service, pursuant to Request For Proposals No. 069-FF10 – INTERIM ASSESSMENT INSTRUMENT AND ITEM BANK, to provide curriculum-paced assessments and an item bank for the purpose of instructional improvement, effective May 10, 2006, through May 9, 2010, as follows:

1. EDUCATIONAL TESTING SERVICE  
ROSEDALE ROAD, MAILSTOP 79-D  
PRINCETON, NJ 08541  
OWNER: JOHN H. OSWALD, SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT  
AND GENERAL MANAGER

Highest Rated Proposal

2. Authorize Procurement Management Services to purchase up to the not to exceed amount of \$6,880,000, over the four-year contract period.

OSP/lja