

Dr. Martin Karp, Board Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT A DONATION FROM THE LAW FIRM OF GREENBERG AND TRAUIG FOR ONE INSTRUCTIONAL STAFF POSITION FOR THE LEARN TO SWIM PROGRAM

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

LINK TO DISTRICT

STRATEGIC PLAN: IMPROVE RETURN ON INVESTMENT OF GRANT DOLLARS

Authorization is requested to accept a donation through the guidance of Cliff Schulman, Senior Shareholder in the Law Firm of Greenberg and Traurig, to fund one instructional staff position in the Learn to Swim Program in the amount of \$70,000 for the 2008-2009 school year. The Learn to Swim Program, entering its twenty fifth year in Miami-Dade County Public Schools, is conducted during the school day and was designed to teach basic swimming instruction and water survival skills in the safest possible environment to students at the earliest possible age in a full inclusion program. The Learn to Swim Program, an affiliate of the American Red Cross, is the largest provider of swimming instruction in Miami Dade County, providing swimming and drown proofing instruction to over 10,000 students annually.

Staff from the Learn to Swim Program also provide swim testing for all students involved in water related field trips, provide Community Water Safety training for all staff coordinating water related field trips, provide adaptive aquatics for students with physical and cognitive disabilities, assist the students in the First Responder program in learning to swim to meet the career preparation requirements, conduct lifeguard certification courses for high school students seeking employment as lifeguards, implement the W.H.A.L.E. Tales instructional program, and deliver BAT, a first aid program for elementary aged students.

No matching funds are required as a condition to receive this donation. Funds will be used to cover the salary and fringe benefits of one instructional staff position in the Learn to Swim Program.

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**ACTION PROPOSED BY
DR. MARTIN KARP:**

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

1. accept a donation from the Law Firm of Greenberg and Traurig to fund one instructional staff position in the Learn to Swim Program in the amount of \$70,000 for the 2008-2009 school year;
2. Direct Financial Operations to establish appropriations in the amounts approved or as amended by the granting agency; such appropriations to be reported periodically to the Board.