

Freddie Woodson, Deputy Superintendent
District/School Operations

SUBJECT: REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT TO ACCEPT A DONATION FOR PRE-SCREENING PROCESS TO ESTABLISH BASELINE AND IMMEDIATE POST-CONCUSSION ASSESSMENT AND COGNITIVE TESTING (IMPACT) SERVICES, VALUED AT \$20,000.00, TO BE UTILIZED BY MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS' SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC PROGRAMS

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

LINK TO STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK: IMPROVE AND EXPAND CURRENT CURRICULUM

At the Board meeting of February 10, 2010, The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approved revised Agenda Item H-18 proffered by Dr. Lawrence S. Feldman, School Board Vice Chair. Board Item H-18 directed the Superintendent of Schools to review current practices and policies related to head and brain injuries sustained during district-sponsored athletic events. At the Board Meeting of April 14, 2010, the Board received a report related to this issue. The ImPACT training and base line testing will serve to address the head and brain injuries concerns.

ImPACT is a thirty minute web based computerized neurocognitive screening that assesses an athlete's thinking and reaction time. High school student athletes participate in ImPACT pre-screening process to establish a baseline. If a concussion is later suspected, the student athlete retakes the test to determine post-injury complications. This type of concussion assessment can help to objectively evaluate the concussed student athlete's post-injury condition and track recovery for safe return to play.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools' senior high schools were recently chosen to receive free Immediate Post-Concussion Assessment and Cognitive Testing (ImPACT) services valued at \$20,000.00 from The Kidz Neuroscience Center at the Miami Project to Cure Paralysis, Gillian A. Hotz, Ph.D., Director. This donation was facilitated by the generous monetary support to The Kidz Neuroscience Center by fundraising events

organized by David Goldstein, a student from Ransom Everglades School. Funding for the ImPACT testing program will then be sustained on a yearly basis for four years by the Kidz Neuroscience Center.

Training for Miami-Dade County Public High School Athletic Directors and Athletic Trainers is anticipated to begin in March 2011. ImPACT testing of Miami-Dade County Public Schools student athletes will take place from April 2011 until January 2012. All student athletes at the varsity and junior varsity levels in the following sports will be tested: football, boys and girls soccer, baseball and softball. In addition, during school year 2012-2013, student athletes participating in the following sports will be tested: girls volleyball, boys and girls basketball, wrestling, and track and field.

RECOMMENDED:

That the School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to accept a donation for pre-screening process to establish baseline and Immediate Post-Concussion Assessment and Cognitive Testing (ImPACT) services, valued at \$20,000.00, to be utilized by Miami-Dade County Public Schools' senior high school athletic programs.

FW:al