

**M-DCPS/UTD
LETTER OF UNDERSTANDING**

This Letter of Understanding (LOU) confirms the collaborative agreement held between Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) and the United Teachers of Dade (UTD) regarding Intervene and Correct II D and F Differentiated Accountability (DA) schools. The intent of this LOU is to provide for total school involvement in improving student achievement at these schools. The following framework is designed to encourage the use of best practices at the classroom level.

Pursuant to meetings held with the Office of Curriculum and Instruction, Professional Development, School Operations, the Office of Assessment, Research and Data Analysis, the Office of Labor Relations and the UTD, the following provisions represent the agreement which has been reached to support improved student achievement at these locations:

I. Collaborative Planning

At Intervene and Correct II D and F DA designated schools, a period for common planning for teachers may be provided. This common planning will be used for collaborative planning, data-based decision making to drive instruction, lesson study groups, and professional learning communities. Common planning time may be reflected in the master schedule or provided with compensation when offered after school. When offered after school, common planning time may be scheduled for not more than one hour each week or the equivalent of one planning period. Request for exemptions from after school common planning will be handled on a case by case basis by the administration.

These DA schools will implement the Florida Continuous Improvement Model (Plan, DO, Check, Act) to ensure that data is used to drive instruction.

II. Academic Freedom

Instruction at Intervene and Correct II D and F DA designated schools shall focus on K-12 literacy strategies in the delivery of content areas. Appropriate Professional Development will be provided. Additionally, instruction in literacy, writing, mathematics, and science shall be research-based and aligned to the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards. Instruction in these areas shall be implemented with specific curricula, specific teaching strategies, district generated pacing guides, and school-site developed instructional focus calendars developed by school site teams. Uniform textbooks provided by the District and materials to instruct may be utilized for identified students at all levels as facilitated by the supervising administrator and the leadership team.

III. Benchmark Assessments

Teachers at Intervene and Correct II D and F DA designated schools may be required to administer common classroom and/or school-site benchmark assessments, not to exceed one every three weeks. All other District required assessments must adhere to the District testing calendar. These assessments shall be based on the needs of the students as determined by the grade level or subject area teachers and the administration.

IV. Professional Development

At Intervene and Correct II D and F DA designated schools, teachers may be required to participate in additional site-based and/or District provided professional development beyond the regular work day/work week at least four times per school year with at least one week prior notice. The content of the school-wide professional development for the school year will be determined collaboratively with the teachers to identify the professional development topics to be addressed. Teachers will receive the appropriate compensation and master plan points for this professional development. Dates and times for this professional development will be agreed upon by the group of affected teachers and administration.

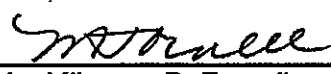
V. Pilot UTD Professional Resource Center

- The UTD Professional Resource Center may be piloted for the 2009-2010 school year at one of the Intervene or Correct II D and F DA designated schools.
- The UTD Professional Resource Center will be designed for professional gatherings, collegial support, professional development, coaching and lesson modeling.
- The components to be provided by the UTD Professional Resource Center will be developed collaboratively with M-DCPS and the UTD.
- The funding model for the UTD Professional Resource Center will be subject to the availability of district funds and the awarding of grant funds to the UTD.
- This pilot program is subject to annual review and renewal beginning May 2010 to determine success, identify opportunities for improvement and to make programmatic decisions regarding continuance.

VI. This plan will be subject to annual review and renewal based on student performance data and available district funds each fiscal year.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

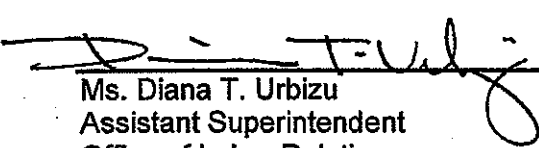
UNITED TEACHERS OF DADE


Ms. Milagros R. Fornell
Associate Superintendent
Curriculum and Instruction

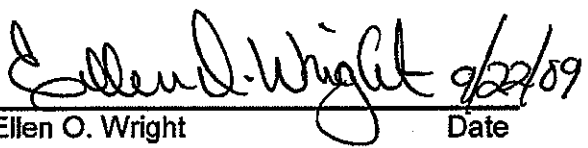
Date


Ms. Karen Aronowitz
President

Date


Ms. Diana T. Urbizu
Assistant Superintendent
Office of Labor Relations

Date


Ms. Ellen O. Wright
Assistant Superintendent
Differentiated Accountability

Date