

Agreement with Florida Atlantic University for Teacher Certification Courses

Agenda Item FF-3

Meeting Date: September 6, 2017

Executive Summary

Overview:

Agenda Item FF-3 is an Agreement between The School Board of Broward County, Florida (SBBC) and Florida Atlantic University to provide education courses for up to 50 teachers that have been hired on a temporary teaching certificate. These teachers have temporary certificates that expire in June 2018 and without successfully completing the required courses and passing all of the Florida Teacher Certification Examinations, they will be released from employment. The District has teacher quality and teacher retention as a high priority. The funding is Title II, Part A and not to exceed \$110,000.

Background:

Teacher Professional Learning and Growth (TPLG) manages two alternative certification programs, the Alternative Certification for Educators (ACE) and the Broward Educator Certification (BEC) programs. These programs are similar in that they support teachers on a temporary teaching certificate in gaining the education semester hours required by the Florida Department of Education. However, the programs are dissimilar in the manner in which these teachers satisfy these requirements. Table 1 provides additional information for the two programs.

Table 1. Alternative Certification Program Comparison

ACE	BEC
Content: FDOE approved competency-based tasks and assignments	Content: College education courses
Delivery: Online	Delivery: Online and Saturday classes at FAU and Broward College
Assessment: Rubric showing mastery of one or more of the Florida Educator Accomplished Practices (FEAPs) by a trained assessor (BCPS teacher)	Assessment: Course instructor and syllabus; mastery of FEAPs
Cost to participants: District funds have been allocated and the Fall 2017 Cohort. Cost is \$0 for teachers	Cost to participants: College fees and course materials
Completion: Mastery of all 21 tasks, passing scores on all Florida Teacher Certification Exams, NTA, Reading Comp 2, Child Abuse Training	Completion: Education semester hours on Statement of Status of Eligibility, passing scores on all Florida Teacher Certification Exams

BEC is offered at two partner institutions of higher education: Florida Atlantic University and Broward College. SBBC entered into an Agreement with CareerSource Broward on April 5, 2016 and with FAU on April 19, 2016 to pay for the tuition for 25 teachers in Cohort 1. A second Agreement with CareerSource Broward and FAU was approved on August 2, 2016 for a second cohort of 50 teachers. A third Agreement with CareerSource Broward and FAU was scheduled to provide tuition for 50 teachers beginning in Fall 2017; however, the Executive Board at CareerSource Broward determined that another "training

provider,” in this case Broward College, provided similar courses at a lower cost and would not approve the agreement for FAU.

In an effort to support the 50 teachers who would benefit from the BEC program, TPLG will provide tuition reimbursement to FAU through Title II, Part A. These teachers will then continue to have the opportunity to complete a program of study required by the FDOE and be eligible to apply for full certification and retain employment.

A fourth cohort is being planned with CareerSource and Broward College for 65 teachers with temporary teaching certificates expiring in June 2019. Table 2 provides an overview of the two BEC offerings.

Table 2. BEC Programs at FAU and BC

BEC at FAU	BEC at BC
Content: Online; 16 weeks	Content: Online, fast-track 5-6 weeks
Eligibility: Full time teacher of record; temporary certificate expiring June 2018	Eligibility: Full time teacher of record; temporary certificate expiring June 2019
Tuition: \$605	Tuition: \$408
Cost to Participant: Fees and course materials	Cost to Participant: Fees and courses materials

Financial Impact and Rationale: To assist the teachers in the third cohort at FAU affected by the lack of funding through CareerSource, a decision was made to provide the financial assistance needed through Title II, Part A in order for these 50 teachers to retain employment. The financial impact to the District is \$110,000.