

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Cooperative Agreement	Big Brothers Big Sisters of Broward County, Inc.
Agencies Included	N/A
Status	New
Funds Requested	N/A
Financial Impact Statement	There is no financial impact to the District
Managing Department/ School	Department of Equity & Diversity David Watkins, Director, 754-321-1600
Project Description	<p>Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) is a Florida non-profit corporation whose mission is to provide children facing adversity with strong and enduring, professionally supported one-on-one relationships that change their lives for the better. The District has collaborated with Big Brothers Big Sisters since 2003. The school-based mentoring program will identify eligible students in collaboration with school staff to be involved in one-on-one mentoring services, with the focus of academic achievement, improved behavior and socialization skills, as well as providing a positive and rewarding experience for the mentors. Big Brothers Big Sisters' goals are consistent with the School Board's mission of providing students with a quality education in a safe and secure learning environment. Big Brothers Big Sisters currently serves students in several schools with its Bigs in Schools mentoring program. This contract encompasses that work and further expands the reach of Big Brothers Big Sisters into additional middle and high schools. Big Brothers Big Sisters is currently working in the following schools:</p> <p>Challenger Elementary, Coconut Creek Elementary, Coral Springs PreK-8, Country Hills Elementary, Oriole Elementary, Nova Blanche Forman Elementary, Park Ridge Elementary, Plantation Park Elementary, Rock Island Elementary, Stirling Elementary, Attucks Middle, Coral Springs Middle, Dillard 6-12, Indian Ridge Middle, New Renaissance Middle, Rickards Middle, Sawgrass Middle, Westpine Middle, Marjory Stoneman Douglas High, Boyd Anderson High, Nova High, South Plantation High, Hollywood Hills High, Coral Glades High and Piper High.</p> <p>This Agreement permits the School Board of Broward County (SBBC) to share student information with BBBS, providing BBBS has obtained written consent for the release of information from students' parents. All adult mentors are fingerprinted and receive a Level II security clearance prior to placement in schools. BBBS works with designated school mentor program staff to match students with mentors and schedule mentoring sessions.</p>
Research Methodology	National research has shown that positive relationships between children and mentors have a direct and measurable impact on children's lives. Landmark research conducted by Public/Private Ventures found that children mentored when compared to their non-mentored peers, are 52% less likely to skip school; 46% less likely to begin using illegal drugs; and 33% less likely to be involved in a physical altercation.