

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

BUNDLED INTERNET ACCESS SERVICES

03-STO-RFP-012B (28-075N)

When the District first connected to the Internet in the mid-90's, the Internet connection was provided by the Florida Information Resource Network (FIRN), a part of the Florida Department of Education. A limited amount of bandwidth was provided, at no cost, by FIRN as part of a State-wide initiative to provide Internet access to schools and libraries. As demand for Internet access increased, the District installed a second Internet connection both for increased capacity and to provide redundancy. This second Internet connection is currently provided by AT&T (formerly BellSouth) as part of the District's RFP 25-005N for Internet Services. The cost for this connection from AT&T is approximately \$780,000.00 per year.

Over time, FIRN has increased the amount of bandwidth provided to Broward at no cost. The amount of free bandwidth, which is provided to educational institutions throughout the State, is based on usage as monitored by FIRN. In discussions with the Department of Education, the District has been advised that additional free bandwidth would be provided to Broward, if we utilized State of Florida Contract 03-STO-RFP-012A for our second Internet connection.

An analysis of State of Florida Contract 03-STO-RFP-012A reveals that the District would save approximately \$250,000 per year by replacing the AT&T connection with a new FIRN connection, which would be provided by Hayes, the contract's awardee. In addition, since the circuit would be monitored by FIRN, the DOE indicates that a request would be made to the State Legislature for additional free bandwidth for SBBC in the 08-09 school year, which would potentially provide additional savings in the 08-09 school year.

State of Florida Contract 03-STO-RFP-012A has been extended through 06/30/09. The School Board is requested to authorize the use of this contract and to provide a spending authorization of \$1.2 million dollars for the two-year period. This amount would provide some flexibility in acquiring additional Internet bandwidth should the demand for Internet access increase. The source of funding is the District Utility Budget.