

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The School Board of Broward County, Florida, has consistently exhibited leadership in educational technology initiatives. Recent modifications to School Board Policy 5306, School and District Technology Usage, extend that leadership to support programs designed to bridge the Digital Divide. As a first step towards a comprehensive Digital Divide program, Education Technology Services (ETS) is planning a pilot program that will refurbish surplus classroom computers and distribute them to eligible families. This agenda item is an agreement between Microsoft and the school district enabling the re-installation of the Microsoft Office product on those computers with no cost to the district or the recipient families.

This agreement allows the transfer of 2,000 Microsoft Office licenses to recipient families. Microsoft acknowledges that the school district has, over several years, purchased new software licenses for district computers as new versions of its Office product were released. This agreement allows for the “re-licensing” of a software license no longer in use by the district to a recipient family. Specific accounting of software purchases is not required, but the recipient families will be required to sign an End User Agreement which ETS will maintain on file.

Education Technology Services (ETS) is teaming with the Title I Parent Involvement program for a program pilot from January to June, 2005. ETS will oversee the computer surplus and refurbish procedures, and Title I will distribute the computers to families who graduate from their technology literacy program. Using the Sterling Plan-Do-Study-Act methodology, the results of the program pilot will be evaluated to improve the process. Although the pilot program has a goal of only 200 computers, this agreement provides the capacity to expand the program if the pilot is successful. ETS is pursuing similar re-licensing agreements with other software vendors for this program.