

Tab #10 - Special Assistant to the Superintendent for Race Relations

Item:

Special Assistant to the Superintendent for Race Relations

Analysis:

Please see Tab 10 of the 2006-07 Budget Volume 2. The MMSD has a directive from the Wisconsin DPI to dedicate 15% of our 2006-07 IDEA entitlement funds approximating \$750,000, to be used to "***provide comprehensive coordinated early intervening services to serve children in the district, particularly children in the groups that were significantly over identified.***" These targeted dollars cannot be used to fund special education including special education teacher and/or SEA costs. Rather, these funds must be used to support services and supports to children not yet identified as having an impairment and need for special education but at risk of being referred for a special education evaluation.

The duties of the Special Assistant to the Superintendent for Race Relations directly support early intervention activities at all levels. By continuing to lead professional growth and development activities on race and equity, this person is able to positively influence school personnel's attitudes and actions in response to the disproportionate number of African American and Native American students in special education. The critically important work being done to address race and equity district-wide results in a better understanding of how race, culture, poverty, and inadequate instruction may inappropriately influence referrals to special education. This is especially important when the causes of the students learning problems are not attributable to a disability.