

**AUTHORIZE PARTICIPATION OF THE OFFICE OF LANGUAGE AND CULTURAL EDUCATION IN  
THE CLOSE UP WASHINGTON, D.C. PROGRAM AND AUTHORIZE EXPENSES RELATED TO THE  
PROGRAM**

**THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING:**

Authorize participation to the Office of Language and Cultural Education in the Close Up Washington, D.C. program with eighteen (18) students from Chase, Chopin, and Talcott in the New Americans Close Up Program from May 29-June 2, 2005 and authorize travel and other expenses related to the program. The Program is organized through the Office of Language and Cultural Education, Dropout Prevention/Newcomer Program Grant. Information pertinent to this Program is stated below:

**USER:** Office of Language and Cultural Education  
125 S. Clark – 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Chicago, Illinois 60603  
Manuel J. Medina  
773 553-1930

**PROGRAM:**

The Close Up Foundation is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, non-sectarian civic educational organization whose mission is to expose both teachers and students to the process of democracy and our national heritage and the Foundation offers a program called Close Up Washington. By participating in this program, students will gain greater understanding of the rights and responsibilities of citizens in a participatory democracy; students will be able to explain diverse points concerning current domestic and international policy questions facing Congress, the executive branch, and/or the courts; students will appreciate the complexity of political issues and processes; and more importantly, students will appreciate that one person can make a difference and that everyone should make the effort. The Program is held in Washington, D.C. It promotes civic education throughout the year through curriculum-based activities. Fully supervised programs begin on Sunday, May 29, 2005 and conclude on Thursday, June 2, 2005. Each day is completely scheduled and structured for students and teachers. Teachers are expected to participate in student/and or teacher seminars daily. Students recommended for the program should be enrolled in the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grades. It is suggested that student candidates be composed of students who currently are or were in a bilingual program as an English Language Learner and demonstrate leadership qualities.

The following dates have been reserved for participation by Chicago Public Schools' students: Elementary schools participating in the New Americans program are Chase, Chopin and Talcott elementary schools. Students depart from Chicago on Sunday, May 29, 2005 and return on Thursday, June 2, 2005.

**EDUCATIONAL VALUE/OUTCOMES:** Student participants will have a great opportunity to learn firsthand about the workings of the government and the responsibilities they hold as citizens of the United States. Activities are designed to introduce students to the history, politics and culture of the nation's capitol. Students will participate in small-group seminars and workshops, meetings with congressional members, lobbyists, and embassy officials and visit museums and monuments. This is an unparalleled learning experience that will enable both students and teachers to return to their home schools with increased knowledge that will be invaluable to the classroom environment.

**TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS/TRIP INFORMATION:** Travel to Washington, D.C. will be made by airplane. Ground transportation will consist of buses provided by the Close Up Foundation.

**COST:** The cost per pupil is \$1069, which includes transportation, meals and hotel costs. The Office of Language and Cultural Education, Dropout Prevention Project grant, will pay the cost.

**CHAPERONES:** Supervision of students will be provided for this program pursuant to Board Report 03-0527-PO01 (Policy on Student Travel), including proper ratio of students to adults.

Trained and certified specialists will be provided by the Close Up Foundation to chaperone students. There will be at least one adult chaperone for every six students. One teacher coordinator from each school and the Dropout Prevention/Newcomer Project Director will accompany students to Washington D.C. The teacher coordinators, while in Washington, will participate in seminars structured specifically for teachers. Teacher coordinators, nevertheless, will communicate with their students and Project Director on a daily basis while in Washington, D.C. Traveling with the students will be Carmen Murguia (Teacher), Janette Ramirez (Teacher), Dr. Salvador Gonzalez (Teacher), and Edwin Rivera (Coordinator).

**WATER ACTIVITIES:** The students who are scheduled to participate in the Close Up New American program will not be participating in any water related activities. Additionally, students and parents/guardians will sign a form reflecting the Chicago Public School's policy regarding water activities.

**PARENTAL CONSENT:** Written parental consent and release forms for each student will be on file at the respective schools.

**AUTHORIZATION:** Authorize the President and Secretary to execute any travel agreements necessary for this program.

**AFFIRMATIVE ACTION:** Pursuant to Section 3.7 of the Revised Remedial Plan for Minority and Women Business Enterprise Contract Participation (M/WBE Plan) this contract is exempt from review because the contract is for tuition.

**LSC REVIEW:** Local School Council approval is not applicable to this report.

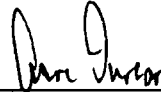
**FINANCIAL:** Charge to Office of Language and Cultural Education:  
Budget Classification: 0460-268-984-1052-5420

Approved for Consideration:



Barbara Eason-Watkins  
Chief Education Officer

Approved:




Arne Duncan  
Chief Executive Officer

Within Appropriation:



John Maiorca  
Chief Financial Officer

Approved as to legal form: 



Patrick J. Rocks  
General Counsel