

Sonia E. Díaz, Ed.D., Deputy Superintendent
Curriculum and Instruction

**SUBJECT: REQUEST SCHOOL BOARD DENIAL OF THE RENEWAL OF THE
 CHARTER SCHOOL CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT WITH
 VANKARA ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL, INC., ON BEHALF OF
 VANKARA ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL**

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

As per Section 1002.33(8)(a), Florida Statutes, a sponsor may choose not to renew a charter school contractual agreement for the following grounds:

- failure to meet the requirements for student performance stated in the charter;
- failure to meet generally accepted standards of fiscal management;
- violation of law; and/or
- other good cause shown.

The initial charter school contractual agreement for Vankara Academy Charter School, Inc., was approved by The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, on March 13, 2002, for a term of three years, commencing with the 2002-2003 school year, and expires on June 30, 2005. The school is located at 13331 Alexandria Drive, Opa-Locka, Florida 33054 and currently serves approximately 94 students in grades six through eight.

In the 2003-2004 school year, the school received a grade of "F" under Florida's A+ Plan for Education. The most recent financial audit revealed four audit findings.

The renewal application submitted by Vankara Academy Charter School was reviewed by curriculum representatives of the Charter School Technical Assistance Team. In addition, student assessment and school performance data were evaluated by the appropriate departments, and these findings were presented to the Charter School Contract Review Committee (CRC). The findings demonstrate that the school has failed to meet the minimum requirements for student performance stated in the charter and to meet Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) pursuant to No Child Left Behind (NCLB).

In addition, the school has failed to comply with the terms of the contractual agreement by:

- failing to maintain sufficient unreserved fund balances to cover the cost of daily operations;
- failing to provide proof of Workers Compensation/Employers Liability Insurance since April 30, 2004;
- failing to provide proof of Automobile Liability Insurance since March 5, 2004;

- failing to provide proof of School Leaders & Omissions Liability Insurance since October 26, 2003; and
- failing to provide proof of Commercial General Liability Insurance since October 25, 2003.

There are additional issues of teacher certification which are of paramount concern given the school's need to maintain highly qualified staff under the provisions of NCLB and state accountability requirements. Attached is the Independent Auditors' Report for 2004.

The CRC met on February 3, 2005, and by a unanimous vote, made a recommendation to deny the renewal of the charter school contractual agreement with Vankara Academy Charter School, Inc., on behalf of Vankara Academy Charter School, at the conclusion of the 2004-2005 school year. The school will be officially notified at least 90 days prior to the expiration of the contractual agreement, pursuant to Section 1002.33(8)(c), Florida Statutes.

Copies of the renewal application and the ballots of the CRC will be transmitted to the School Board under separate cover and are available for inspection by the public in the Office of the Board Recording Secretary, Room 924, and in the Citizen Information Center, Room 158, 1450 NE Second Avenue, Miami, Florida 33132.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, deny the renewal of the charter school contractual agreement with Vankara Academy Charter School, Inc., on behalf of Vankara Academy Charter School, effective June 30, 2005.

RKF/MB/CR:dcr