

José F. Montes de Oca, Chief Auditor
Office of Management and Compliance Audits

SUBJECT: INVESTIGATION OF COMPLAINT CONCERNING STELLAR LEADERSHIP ACADEMY, INC. (F/K/A LIFE SKILLS CENTER MIAMI-DADE, INC.) AND LIFE SKILLS CENTER OPA LOCKA, INC. CHARTER SCHOOLS

COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, EFFICIENCY & GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

LINK TO STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK: FINANCIAL EFFICIENCY/STABILITY

This investigation was conducted based on a complaint forwarded to the Office of Management and Compliance Audits by Mr. Mike Blackburn, Inspector General of the Florida Department of Education, in a letter dated May 14, 2013. A copy of this report was provided to Mr. Blackburn.

The allegations in the complaint centered around the Governing Board and contracted management of the currently existing Stellar Leadership Academy Charter School (formerly Life Skills Center Miami-Dade), and the defunct Life Skills Center Opa Locka, which closed in January 2011.

Our investigation substantiated two of the five allegations, and resulted in the return of \$149,320 to M-DCPS. These funds had been improperly retained by these entities.

The School Board Audit and Budget Advisory Committee reviewed this report at its September 17, 2013, meeting and recommended transmitting it to the School Board.

Copies of this report were previously distributed and placed on file in the Office of the Recording Secretary to the School Board and in the Citizen Information Center. Additional copies will be provided upon request.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, receive and file the Investigation of Complaint Concerning Stellar Leadership Academy, Inc. (F/K/A Life Skills Center Miami-Dade, Inc.) and Life Skills Center Opa Locka, Inc. Charter Schools.