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Office of Management and Compliance Audits

SUBJECT: INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT – AUDIT OF VIRTUAL PRIVATE NETWORK (VPN) – SECURITY CONTROLS AND ACCESS MANAGEMENT

COMMITTEE: FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY & GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN: EFFECTIVE & SUSTAINABLE OPERATIONAL PRACTICES

We performed this audit in accordance with the approved Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Audit Plan. The lockdown caused by the COVID-19 pandemic created a sudden need for mass remote work capabilities, resulting in a near 120% increase in the number of existing VPN accounts prior to the pandemic. The proliferation of this critical business tool also increases the risks associated with using this technology.

The objective of this audit was to provide assurances relative to the effectiveness of implemented VPN controls. Accordingly, we reviewed the procedures for provisioning and managing VPN technology, the supporting infrastructure, and adherence to applicable standards and best practices.

This audit resulted in three findings and six corresponding recommendations, including the need for detailed process documentation, periodic reviews, and actionable audit/event logging. Furthermore, updating the organization's Network Security Standards document is required. Certain confidential findings and recommendations have been discussed with Management (excluded from this report) to further strengthen activities and process related to VPN.

District management generally concurred with the findings and recommendations and indicated that corresponding corrective actions have already been implemented or are in process.

The School Board Audit and Budget Advisory Committee reviewed this report at its July 19, 2022, meeting and recommended transmission to the School Board.

Copies of this report were distributed and placed on file in the Office of the Recording Secretary to the School Board and in the Citizen Information Center.

The report may be accessed at:

https://mca.dadeschools.net/AuditCommittee/AC_July_19_2022/Item8.pdf

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, receive and file the Internal Audit Report – Audit of Virtual Private Network (VPN) – Security Controls And Access Management.