

SUMMARY EXPLANATION AND BACKGROUND:

Our audit objectives were to determine whether there were any violations of the Governing Board's responsibilities according to the Virtual Charter School Agreement between the School Board of Broward County, Florida and South Florida Virtual Charter School Board, Inc. to determine whether the SFVCS Board engaged in any related party transactions that violated any Florida ethics laws, rules or regulations; to determine whether the SFVCS Board and K12's operations and transactions were appropriate and transparent; to determine if corrective action has been addressed regarding the 2014-2015 Charter School On-Site Virtual Programmatic Review and to report recommendations to the School Board, the SFVCS Board and K12, if needed.

During our review, we noted non-compliance with the District's Charter School Agreement, K12's Educational Products and Services Agreement and Florida Statutes. In addition, we reviewed the Virtual Programmatic Review performed by the District's Charter Schools Management/Support (CSM/S) Office. This report identified numerous deficiencies with the Florida Virtual Academy at Broward County that require immediate action to improve the academic performance of the school for the students. We provided six findings/recommendations, which are detailed in the report.

It is our opinion that the SFVCS Board needs to determine whether they can improve the academic performance and comply with the contractual obligations with K12 and Broward County Public Schools or consider taking an alternative route to ensure students are being provided with a quality education program. The current poor performance of the Florida Virtual Academy at Broward County (Charter School) needs to be addressed. Below are three options that the SFVCS Board should consider: 1) re-establishing a working relationship with K12, providing K12 an opportunity to remedy the deficiencies noted with the operations of the Charter School, in accordance with the terms of the contract, to improve all business and academic operations of the Charter School; 2) seeking a new Educational Service Provider (ESP) that can offer the virtual instructional services and the day-to-day management of all academic, operational and management functions that the Board is looking to obtain; 3) voluntarily terminating the Charter School, which may be the best option in the interest of the students, if the performance of the Charter School and K12's management cannot be significantly improved.