

### **SUMMARY EXPLANATION AND BACKGROUND**

During the 2017-2018 school year, Demetria Burleson-Liburd (hereinafter “D.L.”) administered the Spring 2017 Florida Standards Assessment (“FSA”) 5<sup>th</sup> grade English Language Arts (“ELA”) Reading (hereinafter “Spring 2017 ELA Reading”) to her fifth grade students. On or about June 22, 2017, an investigation was conducted by the Florida Department of Education, Office of Inspector General (“OIG”) relating to an unusually high similarity index score on the Spring 2017 ELA Reading at Meadowbrook Elementary School (hereinafter “Meadowbrook”). The high similarity index score is a potential indicator of answer copying, test coaching, proxy test taking, or some other form of collusion. On or about June 29, 2017, Meadowbrook was identified for investigation regarding the high number of similarities.

On or about October 12, 2017, the OIG visited Meadowbrook to investigate an allegation of fraud regarding the administration of the Spring 2017 ELA Reading and interviewed students and the staff responsible for the administration of the test. Based on the investigation conducted, the OIG determined that D.L. assisted students with the Spring 2017 ELA Reading in violation of Florida Statutes.

The Administrative Counsel prepared the Administrative Complaint and notice will be served on D.L. that a recommendation for her three (3)-day suspension without pay will be presented to the School Board on October 2, 2018. Staff will advise the School Board whether a hearing has been requested no later than by the start of the Board meeting on November 7, 2018.