

Executive Summary

Applicants seeking to open a charter school must complete the new Model Florida Charter School Application available from the Department of Education Charter School website or the district's Charter School website. The application clearly specifies the statutorily required standards and supporting criteria reviewers will expect as demonstration of the school's mission, program, goals, target population, methods of assessment, governance, financial stability, and security. In order to demonstrate the quality of the proposed charter school as well as the capacity of the applicant to meet the challenge of operating a quality charter school, applicants are asked to provide detailed plans in three areas critical to the success of the school:

- Educational Plan,
- Organizational Plan, and
- Business Plan

Pursuant to Section 1002.33, Florida Statutes, charter school applications are due on or before August 1 of each calendar year for charter schools to be opened at the beginning of the school district's next academic year. Applications received in a timely manner are evaluated by the Superintendent's Charter School Review Committee comprised of representatives from curriculum, budget, facilities, district administration, transportation, Exceptional Student Education, ESOL, and other areas of the organization.

Staff Comments and Recommendations:

The Charter School application for The Hilda Vila Foundation, Inc. (Hilda Vila) was reviewed by the Charter School Review Committee and is recommended for denial. It is recommended that the application of The Hilda Vila Foundation, Inc. (Hilda Vila) be denied due to the following deficiencies:

- Failure to demonstrate the capacity to meet the school's obligations under state and federal law regarding the education of exceptional students *s. 1002.33 (16)(a)(3), F.S. (A required element of the Florida Model Charter School Application);*
- Failure to demonstrate sound plans for educating exceptional students that reflect the full range of programs and services required to provide all students with a high quality education. *s. 1002.33 (16)(a)(3), F.S. (A required element of the Florida Model Charter School Application);*
- Failure to demonstrate an understanding of state and federal requirements regarding the education of English Language Learners. *s. 1002.33 (16)(a)(3), F.S. (A required element of the Florida Model Charter School Application);*
- Failure to provide sound plans for educating English Language Learners that reflect the full range of programs and services required to provide all students with a high quality education. *s.1002.33(16)(a)(3), F.S. . (A required element of the Florida Model Charter School Application);*

- Failure to provide a realistic plan for securing a facility that is appropriate and adequate for the school's program and targeted population. *s. 1002.33(7)(a)(13), F.S.; s. 1002.33(18), F.S. (A required element of the Florida Model Charter School Application);*
- Failure to provide budgetary projections that are consistent with all parts of the application, including the school's mission, education program, staffing plan and facility. *s. 1002.33(6)(a)(5), F.S.; s. 1002.33(6)(b)(2), F.S. (A required element of the Florida Model Charter School Application);*
- Failure to demonstrate a fiscal management system that properly safeguards assets. *s. 1002.33(16)(b)(2), F. S. (A required element of the Florida Model Charter School Application);*
- Failure to provide evidence of proper insurance coverage. *s. 1002.33(7)(a)(11), F.S. (A required element of the Florida Model Charter School Application).*

The applicant for The Hilda Vila Foundation, Inc. (Hilda Vila) is encouraged to resubmit an application for the 2011 Application Review Cycle after the foregoing application deficiencies have been remedied.