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To: The Honorable Chairperson, Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman
and Members, Miami-Dade School Board

Mr. Alberto M. Carvalho, Superintendent of Schools, M-DCPS

From:  Christopher Mazzella, Inspector General

Date: February 13, 2013

Re: SES Provider Pleads Guilty for Phantom Student Billing Scheme,
Ref. IG09-99SB

Erika Raquel Robinson (Robinson), the operator of a Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) Supplemental Education Services (SES) program provider, entered a plea of guilty in Circuit Court today. The case was jointly investigated by the Miami-Dade County Public Schools Office of the Inspector General (OIG), the United States Department of Education Office of the Inspector General (U.S. ED OIG), and the Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office (SAO). Robinson, the principal of Divine Sports, Inc. (Divine Sports), a Florida not-for-profit corporation, and Divine Sports were charged in September 2011 with 47 felonies relating to fraudulent billing schemes involving the afterschool SES tutoring programs at Miami Central High School, Miami Northwestern Senior High School, and Golden Glades Elementary. Robinson and Divine Sports entered into a plea agreement and were sentenced today.

The SES tutoring program is federally-funded and those funds are administered at the local level by M-DCPS. Through the SES program, qualified students receive free afterschool tutoring in reading and math. Divine Sports, for the 2009-2010 school year, received almost \$1 million from M-DCPS for SES tutoring and in 2010-2011, Divine Sports billed M-DCPS over \$470,000 for SES tutoring.

Robinson was sentenced to five (5) years of probation with numerous special conditions including that she voluntarily cause her certification to be an SES vendor with the State of Florida and the U.S. Department of Education to be revoked without renewal during the course of her probation. The SES vendor certification of Divine Sports, Inc. will also be revoked with both the State of Florida and the U.S. Department of Education. In addition, for a period of five (5) years, Robinson and Divine Sports, Inc. will be debarred from future business with the State of Florida and will be excluded parties in the United States General Services Administration system. Restitution and costs of investigation to both the OIG and the U.S. ED OIG are also conditions of Robinson's probation, as is the condition that during the course of her probation she cannot be employed by any company providing SES tutoring services.

The OIG would like to thank the U.S. ED OIG for their assistance in this investigation. We would also like to express our appreciation to the Superintendent for bringing to the OIG's attention his concerns about the SES program.

cc: Gregory M. Bethune, Principal, Miami Central High School
Wallace Aristide, Principal, Miami Northwestern High School
Theron A. Clark, Principal, Golden Glades Elementary School
Walter J. Harvey, School Board Attorney
Jose Montes de Oca, Chief Auditor, Office of Management and Compliance Audits
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