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TO: Honorable Chairperson Perla Tabares Hantman
and Members, Miami-Dade County School Board

Alberto Carvalho, Superintendent, Miami-Dade County Public Schools

FROM: Mary T. Cagle, Inspector General 

DATE: December 5, 2018

SUBJECT: Former Principal of the North Miami Adult Education Center Sentenced to
State Prison, Ref. SB-1314-1014

Jean Ridore, the former Principal of the North Miami Adult Education Center, was sentenced to six years in state prison yesterday, concluding the Miami-Dade County Public Schools Office of the Inspector General's (OIG's) corruption investigation that began in 2014. The investigation, conducted with the assistance of the State Attorney's Office Public Corruption Task Force (Task Force), which included members of the Schools Police, uncovered various schemes by Ridore to enrich himself at the expense of Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS). The investigation focused on allegations ranging from "pay to play" arrangements, ghost or no-show employees on the payroll, employees required to "kick back" a part of their salary, and requiring employees to perform non-school work for Mr. Ridore at his home or for his outside private business.

Ridore, arrested in October 2015, was charged with two counts of Unlawful Compensation, Official Misconduct, and Grand Theft. During the trial, in late September 2018, jurors heard evidence from OIG and Task Force investigators detailing their undercover operation. Ridore was caught on tape arranging a "pay to play" scheme with an undercover officer posing as a handyman. Ridore accepted \$1000 and hired the handyman. Ridore also agreed that the handyman did not have to actually work. Ridore was arrested after accepting a kickback from the handyman in exchange for approving and submitting fictitious payroll hours through the M-DCPS payroll system.

At the sentencing, the Court made it clear that Ridore had violated the public trust and wasted taxpayer money. In addition to his prison term, Ridore was also sentenced to 2 years of house arrest and 7 years of probation to follow his incarceration. Ridore was ordered to pay fines and restitution, and will be prohibited from obtaining any government employment while on house arrest and probation.

cc: Ian A. Moffett, Chief of School Safety and Compliance Officer
Edwin Lopez, Chief, Miami-Dade Schools Police
Walter J. Harvey, School Board Attorney
Maria T. Gonzalez, Chief Auditor, Office of Management and Compliance Audits