

# Miami-Dade County Public Schools

*giving our students the world*

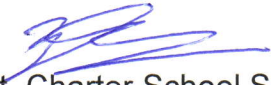
**Superintendent of Schools**  
Alberto M. Carvalho

**School Board Attorney**  
Walter J. Harvey

**Miami-Dade County School Board**  
Perla Tabares Hantman, Chair  
Dr. Lawrence S. Feldman, Vice Chair  
Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall  
Susie V. Castillo  
Carlos L. Curbelo  
Dr. Wilbert "Tee" Holloway  
Dr. Martin Karp  
Dr. Marta Pérez  
Raquel A. Regalado

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Jose Montes-de-Oca  
Chief Auditor, Office of Management & Compliance Audits

**FROM:** Walter J. Harvey, School Board Attorney   
Tiffanie Pauline, Assistant Superintendent, Charter School Support

**DATE:** May 6, 2014

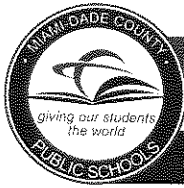
**SUBJECT: DORAL ACADEMY NOTICE TO PARENTS REGARDING DORAL COLLEGE ACCREDITATION STATUS**

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At the March 11, 2014, Audit and Budget Advisory Committee (ABAC), members expressed a concern about whether Doral Academy parents and students have been appropriately informed about the consequences of taking classes at the unaccredited Doral College. Although the ABAC did not take a final vote on the issue or recommended action, the attached documents indicate the steps taken by the District to address this concern and Doral Academy's response.

If we can be of any further assistance, please feel free to contact us.

WJH/MM



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April 24, 2014

Ms. Angela Ramos, Board Chair  
Doral Academy, Inc.  
520 Minola Drive  
Miami Springs, FL 33166  
[angelaramos23@gmail.com](mailto:angelaramos23@gmail.com)

Mr. Douglas Rodriguez, Principal  
Doral Academy High School  
Doral Performing Arts & Entertainment Academy  
11100 Northwest 27<sup>th</sup> Street  
Doral, FL 33172  
[Drodriguez1010@dadeschools.net](mailto:Drodriguez1010@dadeschools.net)

**RE: COMPLIANCE NOTICE: REQUIRED NOTIFICATION TO DORAL PARENTS AND STUDENTS REGARDING CREDIT FOR DORAL COLLEGE COURSES**

Dear Ms. Ramos and Mr. Rodriguez,

At its March 11, 2014, the School Board's Audit and Budget Advisory Committee requested that the District notify you of your responsibility to communicate to all parents and students of Doral Academy High School and Doral Performing Arts & Entertainment Academy ("Schools"), that dual enrollment credits cannot be given to students for courses taken at Doral College because it is not accredited as required by Section 1011.62(1)(i), F.S.

If it has not already been done, the Schools must immediately notify all parents and students in writing of the potential academic impact of participating in a non-approved dual enrollment program which includes the following details:

- (a) the inability to earn high school credit for these courses;
- (b) the inability to transfer Doral College credits to other SACS-approved higher education institutions; and
- (c) the inability to use grades earned through Doral College in the calculation of student high school GPA.

This notification must also be included in all information provided to students and parents in handbooks, curriculum bulletins, websites, and any other materials that reference Doral College.

Please provide documentation that the Schools have satisfied this request by April 30, 2014. Failure to do so may necessitate District action to provide notification directly to the Schools' parents and students. If you have questions or need additional information, please call Ms. Nicki Brisson, Executive Director, Charter School Support, at 305-995-1530, or contact her via email at [nbrisson@dadeschools.net](mailto:nbrisson@dadeschools.net).

Sincerely,



Tiffanie A. Pauline, Assistant Superintendent  
Charter School Support

TAP:nlb  
L173

cc: Mr. Alberto M. Carvalho  
Mr. Walter J. Harvey, Esq.  
Mr. Jose Montes de Oca, CPA  
Mrs. Valtena G. Brown  
Ms. Marie L. Izquiereo  
Mr. Julio Miranda, CPA  
Dr. Maria de Armas  
Ms. Melinda McNichols, Esq.  
Ms. Nicki L. Brisson  
Mr. Jon Goodman, CPA  
Dr. Lisette T. Rodriguez

## McNichols, Mindy

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**From:** Rodriguez, Douglas P.  
**Sent:** Monday, April 28, 2014 8:15 AM  
**To:** Pauline, Tiffanie A.; angelaramos23@gmail.com  
**Cc:** Harvey, Walter J.; Montes-de-oca, Jose F.; Brown, Valtena G.; Izquierdo, Maria L.; Miranda, Julio; De Armas, Maria P.; McNichols, Mindy; Rodriguez, Lisette T.  
**Subject:** RE: COMPLIANCE NOTICE - REQUIRED NOTIFICATION TO DORAL PARENTS AND STUDENTS REGARDING CREDIT FOR DORAL COLLEGE COURSES  
**Attachments:** Doral College Parent Letter.pdf; Doral College Scholars Program Student App.pdf

Tiffany,

The Florida Legislature has demonstrated an unmistakable intent to afford charter schools considerable flexibility to pursue and develop innovative educational programs for their students. This is reflected in several areas of the state's general charter school law. *See e.g.*, Fla. Stat. § 1002.33(2)(b)3.; § 1002.33(6)(h) (2013) (referring to the legislature's "intent of giving charter schools greater flexibility to meet educational goals."). This policy directive is most clearly indicated in the charter school statute's general exemption provision. *See* § 1002.33(16). This provision provides charter schools with a blanket exemption from compliance with the entirety of the K-20 Education Code, § 1000-1013, save for a few select statutes pertaining to areas such as student health, safety, and welfare; civil rights; student assessment programs; and charter school-specific laws. *See* § 1002.33(16)(a)1.-5..

Currently, Doral Academy contracts with Doral College to have the College provide postsecondary educational services, including college curricular and co-curricular offerings, to the charter schools' student body. These activities are not only completely legal under Florida law, they embody the sort of innovative educational initiatives the law intended for charter schools to pursue. The broad flexibility afforded charter schools, indicated generally by the legislature's intent and specifically by Subsection 16 of the charter school statute, necessarily would apply to a charter school's relationship with a postsecondary higher learning institution. The § 1002.33(16) exemption places charter schools outside of the purview of education provisions governing a school's relationship with a postsecondary institution. This would include, but is certainly not limited to, provisions relating to dual or concurrent enrollment-type programs as covered by § 1002.271.

Thou we are clearly exempt and aren't required to do so, in the interest of continuing to work with the school district I have provided the attached information you requested. It has always and will continue to be the intent of Doral Academy to inform parents of all information regarding their child's enrollment in Doral College. As you can see the documents that parents sign and the correspondence from the Doral Academy and Doral College clearly indicate that Doral College is yet to be accredited. In addition, the college catalog (see link <http://www.doral-college.org/ourpages/auto/2014/3/31/53686507/DC%20College%20Catalog%202013-2014.pdf>) on page 17 refers to the accreditation status of the college. As a matter of clarification all of this information was provided to the audit department as part of the thousands of pages of documents submitted.

Please let me know if you have any further questions. Thank you again.

Doug Rodriguez

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**From:** Roberts, Nancy K. on behalf of Pauline, Tiffanie A.  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 24, 2014 2:09 PM  
**To:** angelaramos23@gmail.com; Rodriguez, Douglas P.  
**Cc:** Harvey, Walter J.; Montes-de-oca, Jose F.; Brown, Valtena G.; Izquierdo, Maria L.; Miranda, Julio; De Armas, Maria P.; McNichols, Mindy; Rodriguez, Lisette T.  
**Subject:** COMPLIANCE NOTICE - REQUIRED NOTIFICATION TO DORAL PARENTS AND STUDENTS REGARDING CREDIT FOR DORAL COLLEGE COURSES



August 28, 2013

## **Doral College: Providing Opportunities for Doral Academy Preparatory Students**

Dear Parents:

We are pleased to inform you that your son/daughter has been invited to participate in a new pilot program through Doral Academy's affiliation with Doral College.

In addition to continuing his/her traditional high school study, your child has the opportunity to concurrently enroll in Doral College, a new institution of higher learning located on the Doral Academy campus. By taking part in Doral College's exciting curricular and co-curricular offerings, your child will receive valuable college preparation resources and enjoy unforgettable educational experiences—all at no cost to you.

Concurrent enrollment at Doral College offers a variety of unique benefits:

- Your child will have access to AP courses taught by Doral College's distinguished faculty, all of whom have advanced degrees in the field in which they teach.
- Your child will have full access to the Doral College library and online resources.
- Your child will have full access to Doral College's academic advising, college advising, college preparation, and job placement resources and personnel.
- Your child will be able to participate in Doral College's selection of undergraduate-level co-curricular programs.
- Your child will be eligible to take all of the innovative courses offered by Doral College, such as its course in Theoretical and Applied Ethics where students have the opportunity to compete and debate with students from the country's top universities.
- All Doral College/AP parallel courses will be eligible for either AP or Honors credit at Doral Academy.

This exciting educational program gives your child the opportunity to receive a genuine college experience while attending Doral Academy in a comfortable and nurturing environment. This opportunity will better prepare them for the road ahead, including any additional post-secondary education they might pursue.

This pilot will not affect your child's AP or dual enrollment participation any differently than participation in a standard AP or dual enrollment course would. Doral College Scholars program students are encouraged to apply to the colleges of their choice as they complete their high school career and their Doral College Associate in Arts degree. There is no cost to the student; Doral College is waiving the

application fees for this pilot program. Students only need to fill out the application forms and enroll in the courses with Doral College student services staff. The college's Director of Student Services will assist them with this process.

Doral College was licensed by the Commission for Independent Education of the State of Florida in September of 2011, and over the summer, expanded to include more courses and services. Doral College is a non-accredited institution. All students should be aware that due to its current status students will not be eligible for financial aid, transfer of credits to other institutions, or to sit for professional exams in career related fields. Once accreditation is received, eligible students will receive transferable college credit for the AP classes already being taken and future courses the student may select, subject to policies of the admitting institution.

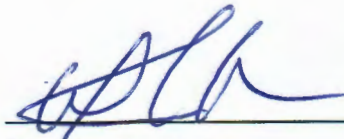
If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the President, Ms Anitere Flores at [aflores@doralcollege.com](mailto:aflores@doralcollege.com) or Douglas Rodriguez, Doral Academy Principal at [drodriguez1010@dadeschools.net](mailto:drodriguez1010@dadeschools.net).

Sincerely,



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Ms Anitere Flores  
*President, Doral College*



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Mr. Douglas Rodriguez  
*Principal, Doral Academy Preparatory*

# Doral College

## Scholars Program Student Application

**Directions:** The form must be typed or printed legibly and submitted to Doral College.

Please note this is **not** an application to a degree program at Doral College.  
Students desiring admission to a degree program must fill out an Admission Application with the Office of Admissions.

**Term and Year of Registration:**  Fall (August-December)  Spring (January-May)  Summer (June-August) Year: \_\_\_\_\_

### Student Information

Name (Last, First, Middle Initial): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Social Security Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Sex:  Male  Female  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Place of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Nation of Citizenship: \_\_\_\_\_ For Non-U.S. Citizen Only:  Resident Alien  Naturalized

(Answers to the following two questions are optional; any information provided will not be used in a discriminatory manner):

- a) Are you Hispanic/Latino?  Yes  No
- b) Regardless of your answer to the prior question, please indicate how you identify yourself (check all that apply):  
 American Indian/Alaskan Native  Asian/Pacific Islander  Black  White (including Middle Eastern)

**\* I understand if I should earn a "D" or lower in any scholars program course, I will no longer be allowed to participate in the Doral College Scholars Program.**  
**\* I understand I will be held liable for fees of any courses not listed above and that this form must be turned in every semester.**  
**\* I wish to take Doral College Scholars Program Courses.**  
**\* I understand that Doral College is a non-accredited institution.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Signature Date

### High School Information

High School Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  Private  Public  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Grade Level: \_\_\_\_\_ Expected Graduation Year: \_\_\_\_\_ Un-weighted GPA: \_\_\_\_\_

Doral Course Abb.	Reference #	Course Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
High School Counselor Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Principal's Signature

High School Seal

If you have previously attended Doral College, please list term(s) and year(s) of attendance: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Have you applied for regular admission to Doral College?  Yes  No If yes, what is the status of your application?  Approved  Denied  Pending

#### **Failure to answer this question will result in a delay in processing your application**

If your answer to any of these questions is yes, you are required to provide a written explanation of the event. In addition, you may be required to furnish Doral College with copies of all official documentation explaining the final disposition of the proceedings.

- Have you ever been subject to disciplinary action or do you currently have disciplinary charges pending by any educational institution for any of the following reasons?
- Yes  No Academic misconduct (such as cheating), (you do not need to disclose any academic dismissal, suspension, or probation that was due to poor grades)
- Yes  No Behavioral misconduct (such as fighting)
- Yes  No Have you ever been convicted of, or charged with, a criminal offense or are you currently the subject of any criminal proceeding?

You do not need to disclose information about minor traffic violations. However, you must disclose information if the traffic offense involved illegal drugs or alcohol or if any person was killed or hospitalized as a result of an accident in which you were charged for a traffic violation. You do not need to disclose information regarding any criminal offense record which has been expunged according to applicable law. You must disclose information if charges were dropped or not prosecuted because you were granted any type of pretrial diversion. Failure to disclose this information may result in a revocation of dual enrollment. *I understand that a false statement in this affidavit will subject me to penalties for making a false statement pursuant to 837.06, Florida Statutes and to Rule 6C-6.001(6), F.A.C.*

**\* Your signature indicates your awareness that your child's grade in these courses will become part of his/her permanent academic record.**  
**\* Doral College is a non-accredited institution**  
 Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved for Scholars Program:  Yes  No

Signature of Doral College Coordinator: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature of Admission Officer/Registrar: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_