REPORT NO. 2013-189
JUNE 2013

HARDEE COUNTY
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP)
Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Students

and

Student Transportation

For the Fiscal Year Ended
June 30, 2012

STATE OF FLORIDA
AUDITOR GENERAL
DAVID W. MARTIN, CPA

BOARD MEMBERS AND SUPERINTENDENT

Hardee County District School Board members and the Superintendent of Schools who served during the 2011-12 fiscal year are listed below:

Member	District No.
Paul G. Samuels, Vice Chair from 11-22-11	1
Mildred C. Smith, Vice Chair to 11-21-11	2
Teresa M. Crawford, Chair	3
Janice M. Platt	4
Thomas Trevino	5

David D. Durastanti, Superintendent

The examination team leader was Patricia Ferguson. Please address inquiries regarding this report to J. David Hughes, CPA, Audit Manager, by e-mail at davidhughes@aud.state.fl.us or by telephone at (850) 414-9941.

This report and other reports prepared by the Auditor General can be obtained on our Web site at www.myflorida.com/audgen; by telephone at (850) 487-9175; or by mail at G74 Claude Pepper Building, 111 West Madison Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1450.

Hardee County District School Board
Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP)
Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Students and Student Transportation
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2012

ELL	English Language Learner
EP	Educational Plan
ESE	Exceptional Student Education
ESOL	English for Speakers of Other Languages
FAC	Florida Administrative Code
FES	Fluent English Speaker
FS	Florida Statutes
IDEA	Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
IEP	Individual Educational Plan
OJT	On-the-Job Training
PK	Prekindergarten

Hardee County District School Board
Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP)
Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Students and Student Transportation

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SUMMARY OF ATTESTATION EXAMINATION

Except for the material noncompliance described below involving reporting errors or records that were not properly or accurately prepared or were missing and could not be located for students in ESOL and ESE Support Levels 4 and 5, the Hardee County District School Board complied, in all material respects, with State requirements regarding the determination and reporting of full-time equivalent (FTE) students under the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) and the number of students transported for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2012:

- **Sixteen of the 65 students in our ESOL sample and 9 of the 23 students in our ESE Support Levels 4 and 5 samples had exceptions involving reporting errors or records that were not properly or accurately prepared or were missing and could not be located.**

Noncompliance related to reported FTE resulted in 14 findings. The resulting proposed net adjustment to the District's reported, unweighted FTE totaled to a negative .1198 but has a potential impact on the District's weighted FTE of a negative 14.2689. Noncompliance related to student transportation resulted in 3 findings and a proposed net adjustment of zero students.

Weighted adjustments to FTE are presented in our report for illustrative purposes only. The weighted adjustments to FTE do not take special program caps and allocation factors into account and are not intended to indicate the weighted FTE used to compute the dollar value of adjustments. That computation is the responsibility of the Department of Education. However, the gross dollar effect of our proposed adjustments to FTE may be estimated by multiplying the proposed net weighted adjustment to FTE by the base student allocation amount. For the Hardee County District School Board, the estimated gross dollar effect of our proposed adjustments to reported FTE is a negative $49,645 (negative 14.2689 times $3,479.22).

We have not presented an estimate of the potential dollar effect of our proposed adjustments to student transportation because there is no equivalent method for making such an estimate.

The ultimate resolution of our proposed adjustments to FTE and student transportation and the computation of their financial impact is the responsibility of the Department of Education.

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF HARDEE COUNTY

The District was established pursuant to Section 1001.30, Florida Statutes, to provide public educational services for the residents of Hardee County. Those services are provided primarily to prekindergarten through twelfth grade students and to adults seeking career education-type training. The District is part of the State system of public education under the general direction and control of the State Board of Education. The geographic boundaries of the District are those of Hardee County.

The governing body of the District is the District School Board that is composed of five elected members. The executive officer of the Board is the elected Superintendent of Schools. For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2012, the District operated 8 schools serving prekindergarten through twelfth grade students, reported 5,079.53 unweighted FTE for those students, and received approximately $16 million in State funding through FEFP.

FLORIDA EDUCATION FINANCE PROGRAM (FEFP)

Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Students

Florida school districts receive State funding through FEFP to serve prekindergarten through twelfth grade students (adult education is not funded by FEFP). FEFP was established by the Florida Legislature in 1973 to guarantee to each student in the Florida public school system the availability of programs and services appropriate to the student's educational needs which are substantially equal to those available to any similar student notwithstanding geographic differences and varying local economic factors. To provide equalization of educational opportunity in Florida, the FEFP formula recognizes: (1) varying local property tax bases, (2) varying program cost factors, (3) district cost differentials, and (4) differences in per-student cost for equivalent educational programs due to sparsity and dispersion of student population. The funding provided by FEFP is based upon the numbers of individual students participating in particular educational programs. A numerical value is assigned to each student according to the student's hours and days of attendance in those programs. The individual student thus becomes equated to a numerical value known as an unweighted FTE (full-time equivalent) student. For example, one student would be reported as one FTE if the student was enrolled in six classes per day at 50 minutes per class for the full 180-day school year (i.e., six classes at 50 minutes each per day is 5 hours of class a day or 25 hours per week that equals one FTE).

Student Transportation

Any student who is transported by the District must meet one or more of the following conditions in order to be eligible for State transportation funding: live two or more miles from school, be physically handicapped, be a Career Education 9-12 or an ESE student who is transported from one school center to another where appropriate programs are provided, or be on a route that meets the criteria for hazardous walking conditions specified in Section 1006.23(4), Florida Statutes. The District received approximately $1 million for student transportation as part of the State funding through FEFP.

DAVID W. MARTIN, CPA
AUDITOR GENERAL

AUDITOR GENERAL
STATE OF FLORIDA

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The President of the Senate, the Speaker of the
House of Representatives, and the
Legislative Auditing Committee

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT
HARDEE COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
FLORIDA EDUCATION FINANCE PROGRAM (FEFP)
FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE) STUDENTS

We have examined management's assertion, included in its representation letter dated February 11, 2013, that the Hardee County District School Board complied with State requirements governing the determination and reporting of the number of full-time equivalent (FTE) students under the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2012. These requirements are found primarily in Sections 1011.60, 1011.61, and 1011.62, Florida Statutes; State Board of Education Rules, Chapter 6A-1, Florida Administrative Code; and the *FTE General Instructions 2011-12* issued by the Department of Education. As discussed in the representation letter, management is responsible for the District's compliance with State requirements. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the District's compliance based on our examination.

Our examination was conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) and the standards applicable to attestation engagements contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States and, accordingly, included examining, on a test basis, evidence about the District's compliance with the aforementioned State requirements and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our examination provides a reasonable basis for our opinion. The legal determination of the District's compliance with these requirements is, however, ultimately the responsibility of the Department of Education.

COMPLIANCE

Our examination procedures disclosed the following material noncompliance: 16 of the 65 students in our ESOL sample[1] and 9 of the 23 students in our ESE Support Levels 4 and 5 sample,[2] had exceptions involving reporting errors or records that were not properly or accurately prepared or were missing and could not be located.

In our opinion, except for the material noncompliance mentioned above involving reporting errors or records that were not properly or accurately prepared or were missing and could not be located for students in ESOL and ESE Support Levels 4 and 5, the Hardee County District School Board complied, in all material respects, with State requirements governing the determination and reporting of the number of full-time equivalent (FTE) students under the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2012.

The results of our examination disclosed other noncompliance with the State requirements mentioned above. We considered this other noncompliance in forming our opinion regarding the District's compliance and it did not affect our opinion as stated above. All noncompliance disclosed by our examination procedures is discussed in SCHEDULE D. The impact of this noncompliance on the District's reported FTE is presented in SCHEDULES A, B, C, and D.

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[1] *For ESOL, see SCHEDULE D, Finding Nos. 2, 3, 6, 7, 9, and 14.*

[2] *For ESE Support Levels 4 and 5, see SCHEDULE D, Finding Nos. 1, 8, 11, and 13.*

INTERNAL CONTROL OVER COMPLIANCE

In accordance with attestation standards established by the AICPA and *Government Auditing Standards*, we are required to report significant deficiencies in internal control detected during our examination and identify those considered to be material weaknesses. The purpose of our examination was to express an opinion on the District's compliance with State requirements and did not include expressing an opinion on the District's related internal controls. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. Due to its limited purpose, our examination would not necessarily identify all deficiencies in internal control over compliance that might be significant deficiencies or material weaknesses.[3] However, the material noncompliance mentioned above is indicative of significant deficiencies considered to be material weaknesses in the District's internal controls related to reporting errors or records that were not properly or accurately prepared or were missing and could not be located for students in ESOL and ESE Support Levels 4 and 5. Other noncompliance disclosed by our examination procedures is indicative of control deficiencies[3] and is also presented herein. The findings, populations, samples, and exception totals that pertain to material and other noncompliance are presented in SCHEDULES A and D.

The District's written response to this examination has not been subjected to our examination procedures and, accordingly, we express no opinion on it.

Pursuant to Section 11.45(4)(c), Florida Statutes, this report is a public record and its distribution is not limited. Attestation standards established by the AICPA require us to indicate that this report is intended solely for the information and use of the Legislative Auditing Committee, members of the Florida Senate and the Florida House of Representatives, the State Board of Education, the Department of Education, and applicable District management and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Respectfully submitted,



David W. Martin, CPA
June 21, 2013

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[3] *A control deficiency in the entity's internal control over compliance exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent or detect noncompliance on a timely basis. A significant deficiency is a control deficiency, or combination of control deficiencies, that adversely affects the entity's ability to comply with the aforementioned State requirements such that there is more than a remote likelihood that noncompliance that is more than inconsequential will not be prevented or detected by the entity's internal control. A material weakness is a significant deficiency, or combination of significant deficiencies, that results in a more-than-remote likelihood that material noncompliance will not be prevented or detected by the entity's internal control.*

SCHEDULE A

Hardee County District School Board
Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP)
Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Students
POPULATIONS, SAMPLES, AND TEST RESULTS
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2012

REPORTED FTE

The funding provided by FEFP is based upon the numbers of individual students participating in particular educational programs. FEFP funds ten specific programs that are grouped under the following four general program titles: Basic, ESOL, ESE, and Career Education 9-12. Unweighted FTE represents FTE prior to the application of the specific cost factor for each program. (See SCHEDULE B and NOTES A3, A4, and A6.) The District reported 5,079.53 unweighted FTE at 8 schools to the Department of Education for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2012.

SCHOOLS AND STUDENTS

As part of our examination procedures, we sampled schools and students for testing FTE reported to the Department of Education for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2012. (See NOTE B.) The population of schools (8) consisted of the total number of schools in the District that offered courses in FEFP-funded programs. The population of students (3,801) consisted of the total number of students in each program at the schools in our samples. Our Career Education 9-12 data includes only those students who participated in OJT. Our populations and samples of schools and students are summarized as follows:

	Number of Schools		Number of Students		Students with	Unweighted FTE		Proposed
Programs	Population	Sample	Population	Sample	Exceptions	Population	Sample	Adjustments
Basic	8	4	2,939	47	0	3,824.8500	41.8023	25.6178
Basic with ESE Services	8	4	571	30	1	710.1900	26.0002	3.4602
ESOL	7	4	267	65	16	393.7600	54.6209	(24.6178)
ESE Support Levels 4 and 5	5	4	24	23	9	20.1800	18.1400	(4.5800)
Career Education 9-12	2	0	0	0	0	130.5500	.0000	.0000
All Programs	8	4	3,801	165	26	5,079.5300	140.5634	(.1198)

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this schedule.

SCHEDULE A (Continued)

Hardee County District School Board
Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP)
Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Students
POPULATIONS, SAMPLES, AND TEST RESULTS
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2012

TEACHERS

We also sampled teachers as part of our examination procedures. (See NOTE B.) Specifically, the population of teachers (133) consisted of the total number of teachers at schools in our sample who taught courses in ESE Support Levels 4 and 5 or Career Education 9-12 or taught courses to ELL students. From the population of teachers, we sampled 49 and found exceptions for 4 of those teachers.

PROPOSED ADJUSTMENTS

Our proposed adjustments present the net effects of noncompliance disclosed by our examination procedures, including those related to our tests of teacher certification. Our proposed adjustments generally reclassify reported FTE to Basic education, except for noncompliance involving a student's enrollment or attendance in which case the reported FTE is taken to zero. (See SCHEDULES B, C, and D.)

The ultimate resolution of our proposed adjustments to FTE and the computation of their financial impact is the responsibility of the Department of Education.

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this schedule.

SCHEDULE B

Hardee County District School Board
Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP)
Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Students
EFFECT OF PROPOSED ADJUSTMENTS ON WEIGHTED FTE
(For Illustrative Purposes Only)
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2012

No.	Program[1]	Proposed Net Adjustment[2]	Cost Factor	Weighted FTE[3]
101	Basic K-3	12.0170	1.102	13.2427
102	Basic 4-8	6.6920	1.000	6.6920
103	Basic 9-12	6.9088	1.019	7.0401
111	Grades K-3 with ESE Services	2.5000	1.102	2.7550
112	Grades 4-8 with ESE Services	1.0000	1.000	1.0000
113	Grades 9-12 with ESE Services	(.0398)	1.019	(.0406)
130	ESOL	(24.6178)	1.161	(28.5813)
254	ESE Support Level 4	(4.5000)	3.550	(15.9750)
255	ESE Support Level 5	(.0800)	5.022	(.4018)
Total		(.1198)		(14.2689)

[1] *See NOTE A6.*

[2] *These proposed net adjustments are for unweighted FTE. (See SCHEDULE C.)*

[3] *Weighted adjustments to FTE are presented for illustrative purposes only. The weighted adjustments to FTE do not take special program caps or allocation factors into consideration and are not intended to indicate the FTE used to compute the dollar value of adjustments. That computation is the responsibility of the Department of Education. (See NOTE A4.)*

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this schedule.

SCHEDULE C

Hardee County District School Board
Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP)
Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Students
PROPOSED ADJUSTMENTS BY SCHOOL
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2012

		Proposed Adjustments[1]			
No.	**Program**	**#0011**	**#0021**	**#0031**	**Balance Forward**
101	Basic K-3	11.0170	.....	.....	11.0170
102	Basic 4-8	3.4336	.....	3.2584	6.6920
103	Basic 9-12	.....	6.9088	.....	6.9088
111	Grades K-3 with ESE Services	.....	.....	.....	.0000
112	Grades 4-8 with ESE Services	.....	.....	.5000	.5000
113	Grades 9-12 with ESE Services	.....	(1.0398)	1.0000	(.0398)
130	ESOL	(14.4506)	(5.9088)	(3.2584)	(23.6178)
254	ESE Support Level 4	.....	.....	(1.5000)	(1.5000)
255	ESE Support Level 5	(.0800)	.....	.....	(.0800)
Total		(.0800)	(.0398)	.0000	(.1198)

[1] *These proposed adjustments are for unweighted FTE. (See NOTE A4.)*

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this schedule.

SCHEDULE C (Continued)

Hardee County District School Board
Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP)
Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Students
PROPOSED ADJUSTMENTS BY SCHOOL
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2012

		Proposed Adjustments[1]		
No.	**Program**	**Brought Forward**	**#0091**	**Total**
101	Basic K-3	11.0170	1.0000	12.0170
102	Basic 4-8	6.6920	.....	6.6920
103	Basic 9-12	6.9088	.....	6.9088
111	Grades K-3 with ESE Services	.0000	2.5000	2.5000
112	Grades 4-8 with ESE Services	.5000	.5000	1.0000
113	Grades 9-12 with ESE Services	(.0398)	.....	(.0398)
130	ESOL	(23.6178)	(1.0000)	(24.6178)
254	ESE Support Level 4	(1.5000)	(3.0000)	(4.5000)
255	ESE Support Level 5	(.0800)	.....	(.0800)
Total		(.1198)	.0000	(.1198)

[1] *These proposed adjustments are for unweighted FTE. (See NOTE A4.)*

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this schedule.

SCHEDULE D

Hardee County District School Board
Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP)
Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Students
FINDINGS AND PROPOSED ADJUSTMENTS
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2012

OVERVIEW

Management is responsible for determining and reporting the number of full-time equivalent (FTE) students under the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) in compliance with State requirements. These requirements are found primarily in Sections 1011.60, 1011.61, and 1011.62, Florida Statutes; State Board of Education Rules, Chapter 6A-1, Florida Administrative Code; and the *FTE General Instructions 2011-12* issued by the Department of Education. Except for the material noncompliance involving reporting errors or records that were not properly or accurately prepared or were missing and could not be located for students in ESOL and ESE Support Levels 4 and 5, the Hardee County District School Board complied, in all material respects, with State requirements governing the determination and reporting of FTE for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2012. All noncompliance disclosed by our examination procedures is discussed below and requires management's attention and action, as recommended on page 14.

Findings	**Proposed Net Adjustments (Unweighted FTE)**

Our examination included the July and October 2011 surveys and the February and June 2012 surveys (see NOTE A5). Unless otherwise specifically stated, the Findings and Proposed Adjustments presented herein are for the October 2011 survey or the February 2012 survey or both. Accordingly, our Findings do not mention specific surveys unless necessary for a complete understanding of the instances of noncompliance being disclosed.

Hilltop Elementary School (#0011)

1. [Ref. 1101] The IEP for one ESE student was prepared on February 16, 2012; however, the initiation date of services to be provided was not until February 21, 2012, which was after the February survey. We also noted that the associated *Matrix of Services* form was dated February 21, 2012, which was after the February 2012 survey. Consequently, there was no valid IEP or *Matrix of Services* form covering the February 2012 survey. We further noted that the student was reported for homebound services; however, the student did not receive any homebound instruction during the reporting survey period. We propose the following adjustment:

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this schedule.

SCHEDULE D (Continued)

Hardee County District School Board
Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP)
Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Students
FINDINGS AND PROPOSED ADJUSTMENTS
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2012

Findings		**Proposed Net Adjustments (Unweighted FTE)**
Hilltop Elementary School (#0011) (Continued)		
255 ESE Support Level 5	(.0800)	(.0800)
2. [Ref. 1102] ELL Committees were not convened to consider six students' extended ESOL placements for a fourth, fifth, or sixth year. We propose the following adjustment:		
101 Basic K-3	2.9170	
102 Basic 4-8	2.4668	
130 ESOL	(5.3838)	.0000
3. [Ref. 1103] One ELL student was beyond the maximum six-year period allowed for State funding of ESOL. We propose the following adjustment:		
102 Basic 4-8	.9668	
130 ESOL	(.9668)	.0000
4. [Ref. 1171/72] The parental notification letters for two out-of-field teachers did not specifically state that the teachers were out of field in ESOL. Consequently, the parents were not adequately informed of the teachers' out-of-field status. We propose the following adjustments:		
Ref. 1171		
101 Basic K-3	1.2000	
130 ESOL	(1.2000)	.0000
Ref. 1172		
101 Basic K-3	6.9000	
130 ESOL	(6.9000)	.0000
		(.0800)

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this schedule.

SCHEDULE D (Continued)

Hardee County District School Board
Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP)
Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Students
FINDINGS AND PROPOSED ADJUSTMENTS
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2012

Findings		**Proposed Net Adjustments (Unweighted FTE)**
Hardee Senior High School (#0021)		
5. [Ref. 2101] The EP for one ESE student had expired prior to the reporting surveys. We propose the following adjustment:		
103 Basic 9-12	1.0000	
113 Grades 9-12 with ESE Services	(1.0000)	.0000
6. [Ref. 2102] ELL Committees were not convened to consider two students' extended ESOL placements for a fifth or sixth year. We propose the following adjustment:		
103 Basic 9-12	1.7272	
130 ESOL	(1.7272)	.0000
7. [Ref. 2103] Five ELL students were beyond the maximum six-year period allowed for State funding of ESOL. We propose the following adjustment:		
103 Basic 9-12	3.3748	
130 ESOL	(3.3748)	.0000
8. [Ref. 2104] The course schedule for one ESE student incorrectly included both homebound instruction and on-campus instruction. The student was only scheduled for homebound instruction during the reporting survey. We propose the following audit adjustment:		
113 Grades 9-12 with ESE Services	(.0398)	(.0398)
9. [Ref. 2105] The *ELL Student Plan* for one student included the student's class schedule; however, the class schedule was not added until after the preparation of the *ELL Student Plan*. Consequently, the student's *ELL Student Plan* was incomplete as of the reporting survey. We propose the following audit adjustment:		

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this schedule.

SCHEDULE D (Continued)

Hardee County District School Board
Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP)
Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Students
FINDINGS AND PROPOSED ADJUSTMENTS
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2012

Findings		**Proposed Net Adjustments (Unweighted FTE)**
Hardee Senior High School (#0021) (Continued)		
103 Basic 9-12	.5000	
130 ESOL	(.5000)	.0000

10. [Ref. 2171] One teacher was not properly certified and was not approved by the School Board to teach Intensive Reading out of field until October 25, 2011, which was after the October 2011 survey. We also noted that: (a) the newsletter that notified parents of the teacher's out-of-field status was not dated and we were otherwise unable to determine whether the notification was made prior to the reporting surveys, and (b) the newsletter did not specifically state that the teacher was out of field in Reading. We propose the following adjustment:

103 Basic 9-12	.3068	
130 ESOL	(.3068)	.0000
		(.0398)

Hardee Junior High School (#0031)

11. [Ref. 3101] There was no evidence that the *Matrix of Services* forms for three ESE students had been reviewed and updated when the students' new IEPs were prepared. We propose the following adjustment:

112 Grades 4-8 with ESE Services	.5000	
113 Grades 9-12 with ESE Services	1.0000	
254 ESE Support Level 4	(1.5000)	.0000

12. [Ref. 3171] The parental notification letter for one out-of-field teacher did not specifically state that the teacher was out of field in Reading and ESOL. Consequently, the parents were not adequately informed of the teacher's out-of-field status. We propose the following adjustment:

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this schedule.

SCHEDULE D (Continued)

Hardee County District School Board
Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP)
Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Students
FINDINGS AND PROPOSED ADJUSTMENTS
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2012

Findings		**Proposed Net Adjustments (Unweighted FTE)**
Hardee Junior High School (#0031) (Continued)		
102 Basic 4-8	3.2584	
130 ESOL	(3.2584)	.0000
		.0000
Wauchula Elementary School (#0091)		
13. [Ref. 9101] We noted the following exceptions involving the *Matrix of Services* forms for four ESE students: (a) the *Matrix of Services* forms for two students were missing and could not be located, and (b) there was no evidence that the *Matrix of Services* forms for two students had been reviewed and updated when the students' new IEPs were prepared. We propose the following adjustment:		
111 Grades K-3 with ESE Services	2.5000	
112 Grades 4-8 with ESE Services	.5000	
254 ESE Support Level 4	(3.0000)	.0000
14. [Ref. 9102] One student was incorrectly reported in ESOL. The student was assessed as FES and a competent English reader and writer. We also noted that an ELL Committee was not convened to consider the student's continued ESOL placement. We propose the following adjustment:		
101 Basic K-3	1.0000	
130 ESOL	(1.0000)	.0000
		.0000
Proposed Net Adjustment		(.1198)

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this schedule.

SCHEDULE E

Hardee County District School Board
Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP)
Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Students
RECOMMENDATIONS AND REGULATORY CITATIONS
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2012

RECOMMENDATIONS

We recommend that management exercise more care and take corrective action, as appropriate, to ensure that: (1) students are reported in the proper FEFP funding categories for the correct amount of FTE and have adequate documentation to support that reporting, particularly with regard to students in ESOL, ESE Support Levels 4 and 5, and Career Education 9-12 (OJT); (2) ESE students are reported in accordance with timely prepared and IEP-supported *Matrix of Services* forms and these forms are retained in readily-accessible files; (3) there is evidence of review of the *Matrix of Services* forms to ensure that the forms accurately and currently reflect the IEP services in effect during the reporting survey; (4) students in a Hospital and Homebound Program placement are only reported for on-campus instruction if evidenced by properly completed attendance records and based on the type and amount of services provided at that location; (5) ELL students are not reported for more than the six-year period allowed for State funding of ESOL; (6) English language proficiency assessments for extended ESOL placements beyond the initial three-year base period are conducted just prior to the students' fourth, fifth, or sixth year of ESOL placements as determined by the students' ESOL anniversary dates and any extended ESOL placements are based on timely documented recommendations of ELL Committees; (7) *ELL Student Plan*s are complete and include timely authorizations for all courses that are to employ ESOL strategies; (8) teachers are either properly certified, or if out of field, are timely approved by the School Board to teach out of field; and (9) parents are timely and appropriately notified when their children are assigned to out-of-field teachers.

The absence of statements in this report regarding practices and procedures followed by the District should not be construed as acceptance, approval, or endorsement of those practices and procedures. Additionally, the specific nature of this report does not limit or lessen the District's obligation to comply with all State requirements governing FTE and FEFP.

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this schedule.

SCHEDULE E (Continued)

Hardee County District School Board
Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP)
Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Students
RECOMMENDATIONS AND REGULATORY CITATIONS
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2012

REGULATORY CITATIONS

Reporting

Section 1011.60, FS .....Minimum Requirements of the Florida Education Finance Program

Section 1011.61, FS .....Definitions

Section 1011.62, FS .....Funds for Operation of Schools

Rule 6A-1.0451, FAC .....Florida Education Finance Program Student Membership Surveys

Rule 6A-1.04513, FAC .....Maintaining Auditable FTE Records

FTE General Instructions 2011-12

Attendance

Section 1003.23, FS .....Attendance Records and Reports

Rules 6A-1.044(3) and (6)(c), FAC .....Pupil Attendance Records

Rule 6A-1.04513, FAC .....Maintaining Auditable FTE Records

FTE General Instructions 2011-12

Comprehensive Management Information System: Automated Student Attendance Recordkeeping System

English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)

Section 1003.56, FS .....English Language Instruction for Limited English Proficient Students

Section 1011.62(1)(g), FS .....Education for Speakers of Other Languages

Rule 6A-6.0901, FAC .....Definitions Which Apply to Programs for English Language Learners

Rule 6A-6.0902, FAC .....Requirements for Identification, Eligibility Programmatic and Annual Assessments of English Language Learners

Rule 6A-6.0903, FAC .....Requirement for Classification, Reclassification, and Post Reclassification of English Language Learners

Rule 6A-6.0904, FAC .....Equal Access to Appropriate Instruction for English Language Learners

Rule 6A-6.09022, FAC .....Extension of Services in English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Program

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this schedule.

SCHEDULE E (Continued)

Hardee County District School Board
Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP)
Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Students
RECOMMENDATIONS AND REGULATORY CITATIONS
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2012

REGULATORY CITATIONS (Continued)

Career Education On-the-Job Attendance

Rule 6A-1.044(6)(c), FAC ..... Pupil Attendance Records

Career Education On-the-Job Funding Hours

Rule 6A-6.055(3), FAC ..... Definitions of Terms Used in Vocational Education and Adult Programs

FTE General Instructions 2011-12

Exceptional Education

Section 1003.57, FS ..... Exceptional Students Instruction

Section 1011.62, FS ..... Funds for Operation of Schools

Section 1011.62(1)(e), FS ..... Funding Model for Exceptional Student Education Programs

Rule 6A-6.03028, FAC ..... Provision of Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) and Development of Individual Educational Plans for Students with Disabilities

Rule 6A-6.03029, FAC ..... Development of Family Support Plans for Children with Disabilities Ages Birth Through Five Years

Rule 6A-6.0312, FAC ..... Course Modifications for Exceptional Students

Rule 6A-6.0331, FAC ..... General Education Intervention Procedures, Identification, Evaluation, Reevaluation and the Initial Provision of Exceptional Education Services

Rule 6A-6.0334, FAC ..... Individual Educational Plans (IEPs) and Educational Plans (EPs) for Transferring Exceptional Students

Rule 6A-6.03411, FAC ..... Definitions, ESE Policies and Procedures, and ESE Administrators

Matrix of Services Handbook (2004 Revised Edition)

Teacher Certification

Section 1012.42(2), FS ..... Teacher Teaching Out-of-Field; Notification Requirements

Section 1012.55, FS ..... Positions for Which Certificates Required

Rule 6A-1.0502, FAC ..... Non-certificated Instructional Personnel

Rule 6A-1.0503, FAC ..... Definition of Qualified Instructional Personnel

Rule 6A-4.001, FAC ..... Instructional Personnel Certification

Rule 6A-6.0907, FAC ..... Inservice Requirements for Personnel of Limited English Proficient Students

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this schedule.

Hardee County District School Board
Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP)
Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Students
NOTES TO SCHEDULES
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2012

NOTE A – SUMMARY

A summary discussion of the significant features of the District, FEFP, FTE, and related areas follows:

1. School District of Hardee County

The District was established pursuant to Section 1001.30, Florida Statutes, to provide public educational services for the residents of Hardee County, Florida. Those services are provided primarily to prekindergarten through twelfth grade students and to adults seeking career education-type training. The District is part of the State system of public education under the general direction and control of the State Board of Education. The geographic boundaries of the District are those of Hardee County.

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2012, the District operated 8 schools serving prekindergarten through twelfth grade students, reported 5,079.53 unweighted FTE, and received approximately $16 million in State funding through FEFP. The primary sources of funding for the District are funds from FEFP, local ad valorem taxes, and Federal grants and donations.

2. Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP)

Florida school districts receive State funding through FEFP to serve prekindergarten through twelfth grade students (adult education is not funded by FEFP). FEFP was established by the Florida Legislature in 1973 to guarantee to each student in the Florida public school system the availability of programs and services appropriate to the student's educational needs which are substantially equal to those available to any similar student notwithstanding geographic differences and varying local economic factors. To provide equalization of educational opportunity in Florida, the FEFP formula recognizes: (1) varying local property tax bases, (2) varying program cost factors, (3) district cost differentials, and (4) differences in per-student cost for equivalent educational programs due to sparsity and dispersion of student population.

Hardee County District School Board
Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP)
Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Students
NOTES TO SCHEDULES
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2012

NOTE A - SUMMARY (Continued)

3. Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Students

The funding provided by FEFP is based upon the numbers of individual students participating in particular educational programs. A numerical value is assigned to each student according to the student's hours and days of attendance in those programs. The individual student thus becomes equated to a numerical value known as an FTE. For example, for prekindergarten through third grade, one FTE is defined as one student in membership in a program or a group of programs for 20 hours per week for 180 days; for grade levels four through twelve, one FTE is defined as one student in membership in a program or a group of programs for 25 hours per week for 180 days.

4. Calculation of FEFP Funds

The amount of State and local FEFP funds is calculated by the Department of Education by multiplying the number of unweighted FTE in each educational program by the specific cost factor of each program to obtain weighted FTEs. Weighted FTEs are multiplied by the base student allocation amount and that product is multiplied by the appropriate cost differential factor. Various adjustments are then added to this product to obtain the total State and local FEFP dollars. All cost factors, the base student allocation amount, cost differential factors, and various adjustment figures are established by the Florida Legislature.

5. FTE Surveys

FTE is determined and reported during the school year by means of four FTE membership surveys that are conducted under the direction of district and school management. Each survey is a sampling of FTE membership for a period of one week. The surveys for the 2011-12 school year were conducted during and for the following weeks: survey one was performed for July 11 through 15, 2011; survey two was performed for October 10 through 14, 2011; survey three was performed for February 13 through 17, 2012; and survey four was performed for June 11 through 15, 2012.

Hardee County District School Board
Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP)
Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Students
NOTES TO SCHEDULES
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2012

NOTE A - SUMMARY (Continued)

6. Educational Programs

FEFP funds ten specific programs under which instruction may be provided as authorized by the Florida Legislature. The general program titles under which these specific programs fall are as follows: (1) Basic, (2) ESOL, (3) ESE, and (4) Career Education 9-12.

7. Statutes and Rules

The following statutes and rules are of significance to the administration of Florida public education:

Chapter 1000, FS .....K-20 General Provisions
Chapter 1001, FS .....K-20 Governance
Chapter 1002, FS .....Student and Parental Rights and Educational Choices
Chapter 1003, FS .....Public K-12 Education
Chapter 1006, FS .....Support for Learning
Chapter 1007, FS .....Articulation and Access
Chapter 1010, FS .....Financial Matters
Chapter 1011, FS .....Planning and Budgeting
Chapter 1012, FS .....Personnel
Chapter 6A-1, FAC .....Finance and Administration
Chapter 6A-4, FAC .....Certification
Chapter 6A-6, FAC .....Special Programs I

NOTE B - SAMPLING

Our examination procedures provided for the selection of samples of schools, students, and teachers using judgmental methods for testing FTE reported to the Department of Education for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2012. Our sampling process was designed to facilitate the performance of appropriate examination procedures to test the District's compliance with State requirements governing FTE and FEFP. The following schools were in our sample:

Hardee County District School Board
Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP)
Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Students
NOTES TO SCHEDULES
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2012

NOTE B - SAMPLING (Continued)

School Name/Description	Finding Number(s)
1. Hilltop Elementary School	1 through 4
2. Hardee Senior High School	5 through 10
3. Hardee Junior High School	11 and 12
4. Wauchula Elementary School	13 and 14

AUDITOR GENERAL
STATE OF FLORIDA

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The President of the Senate, the Speaker of the
House of Representatives, and the
Legislative Auditing Committee

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT
HARDEE COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
FLORIDA EDUCATION FINANCE PROGRAM (FEFP)
STUDENT TRANSPORTATION

We have examined management's assertion, included in its representation letter dated February 11, 2013, that the Hardee County District School Board complied with State requirements governing the determination and reporting of the number of students transported for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2012. These requirements are found primarily in Chapter 1006, Part I, E., and Section 1011.68, Florida Statutes; State Board of Education Rules, Chapter 6A-3, Florida Administrative Code; and the *Student Transportation General Instructions 2011-2012* issued by the Department of Education. As discussed in the representation letter, management is responsible for the District's compliance with State requirements. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the District's compliance based on our examination.

Our examination was conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) and the standards applicable to attestation engagements contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States and, accordingly, included examining, on a test basis, evidence about the District's compliance with the aforementioned State requirements and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our examination provides a reasonable basis for our opinion. The legal determination of the District's compliance with these requirements is, however, ultimately the responsibility of the Department of Education.

COMPLIANCE

In our opinion, the Hardee County District School Board complied, in all material respects, with State requirements governing the determination and reporting of the number of students transported for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2012.

The results of our examination disclosed noncompliance with the State requirements mentioned above. We considered this noncompliance in forming our opinion regarding the District's compliance and it did not affect our opinion as stated above. All noncompliance disclosed by our examination procedures is discussed in SCHEDULE G. The impact of this noncompliance on the District's reported number of transported students is presented in SCHEDULES F and G.

INTERNAL CONTROL OVER COMPLIANCE

In accordance with attestation standards established by the AICPA and *Government Auditing Standards*, we are required to report significant deficiencies in internal control detected during our examination and identify those considered to be material weaknesses. The purpose of our examination was to express an opinion on the District's compliance with State requirements and did not include expressing an opinion on the District's related internal controls. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. Due to its limited purpose, our examination would not necessarily identify all deficiencies in internal control over compliance that might be significant deficiencies or material weaknesses.[1] The noncompliance mentioned above, while indicative of certain control deficiencies,[1] is not considered indicative of material weaknesses in the District's internal controls related to their reported ridership classification or eligibility for State transportation funding. The findings, populations, samples, and exception totals that pertain to noncompliance are presented in SCHEDULES F and G.

The District's written response to this examination has not been subjected to our examination procedures, and accordingly, we express no opinion on it.

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[1] *A control deficiency in the entity's internal control over compliance exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent or detect noncompliance on a timely basis. A significant deficiency is a control deficiency, or combination of control deficiencies, that adversely affects the entity's ability to comply with the aforementioned State requirements such that there is more than a remote likelihood that noncompliance that is more than inconsequential will not be prevented or detected by the entity's internal control. A material weakness is a significant deficiency, or combination of significant deficiencies, that results in a more-than-remote likelihood that material noncompliance will not be prevented or detected by the entity's internal control.*

Pursuant to Section 11.45(4)(c), Florida Statutes, this report is a public record and its distribution is not limited. Attestation standards established by the AICPA require us to indicate that this report is intended solely for the information and use of the Legislative Auditing Committee, members of the Florida Senate and the Florida House of Representatives, the State Board of Education, the Department of Education, and applicable District management and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Respectfully submitted,



David W. Martin, CPA
June 21, 2013

SCHEDULE F

Hardee County District School Board
Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP)
Student Transportation
POPULATIONS, SAMPLES, AND TEST RESULTS
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2012

Any student who is transported by the District must meet one or more of the following conditions in order to be eligible for State transportation funding: live two or more miles from school, be physically handicapped, be a Career Education 9-12 or an ESE student who is transported from one school center to another where appropriate programs are provided, or be on a route that meets the criteria for hazardous walking conditions specified in Section 1006.23(4), Florida Statutes. (See NOTE A1.)

As part of our examination procedures, we sampled students for testing the number of students transported as reported to the Department of Education for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2012. (See NOTE B.) The population of vehicles (62) consisted of the total of the numbers of vehicles reported by the District for each survey. For example, a vehicle that transported students during the July and October 2011 and February and June 2012 surveys would be counted in the population as four vehicles. Similarly, the population of students (4,693) consisted of the total numbers of students reported by the District as having been transported for each survey. (See NOTE A2.) The District reported students in the following ridership categories:

Ridership Category	Number of Students Transported
IDEA (K-12), Weighted	74
IDEA (PK), Weighted	48
Teenage Parents and Infants	21
Two Miles or More	4,533
Center to Center (IDEA), Unweighted	17
Total	4,693

Students with exceptions are students with exceptions affecting their ridership category. Students cited only for incorrect reporting of days in term, if any, are not included.

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this schedule.

SCHEDULE F (Continued)

Hardee County District School Board
Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP)
Student Transportation
POPULATIONS, SAMPLES, AND TEST RESULTS
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2012

Our examination results are summarized below:

	Students	
Description	With Exceptions	Proposed Net Adjustment
We sampled 142 of the 4,693 students reported as being transported by the District.	2	0
We also noted certain issues in conjunction with our general tests of student transportation that resulted in the addition of 1 student.	1	0
Total	3	0

Our proposed net adjustment presents the net effect of noncompliance disclosed by our examination procedures. (See SCHEDULE G.)

The ultimate resolution of our proposed net adjustment and the computation of its financial impact is the responsibility of the Department of Education.

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this schedule.

SCHEDULE G

Hardee County District School Board
Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP)
Student Transportation
FINDINGS AND PROPOSED ADJUSTMENTS
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2012

OVERVIEW

Management is responsible for determining and reporting the number of students transported in compliance with State requirements. These requirements are found primarily in Chapter 1006, Part I, E., and Section 1011.68, Florida Statutes; State Board of Education Rules, Chapter 6A-3, Florida Administrative Code; and the *Student Transportation General Instructions 2011-2012* issued by the Department of Education. The Hardee County District School Board complied, in all material respects, with State requirements governing the determination and reporting of students transported for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2012. All noncompliance disclosed by our examination procedures is discussed below and requires management's attention and action, as recommended on page 29.

Findings	**Students Transported Proposed Net Adjustments**

Our examination procedures included both general tests and detailed tests. Our general tests included inquiries concerning the District's transportation of students and verification that a bus driver's report existed for each bus reported in a survey. Our detailed tests involved verification of the specific ridership categories reported for students sampled from the July and October 2011 surveys and the February and June 2012 surveys. Adjusted students who were in more than one survey are accounted for by survey. For example, a student sampled twice (i.e., once for the October 2011 survey and once for the February 2012 survey) will be presented in our Findings as two sample students.

1. [Ref. 51] Our general test of student transportation disclosed that 17 students were reported for an incorrect number of days in term. The students were reported for 90 days in term but should have been reported for 7 or 8 days in term in accordance with their transportation schedule. We propose the following adjustments:

October 2011 Survey	
90 Days in Term	
Center to Center (IDEA), Unweighted	(7)
8 Days in Term	
Center to Center (IDEA), Unweighted	7

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this schedule.

SCHEDULE G (Continued)

Hardee County District School Board
Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP)
Student Transportation
FINDINGS AND PROPOSED ADJUSTMENTS
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2012

Findings		**Students Transported Proposed Net Adjustments**
February 2012 Survey		
90 Days in Term		
Center to Center (IDEA), Unweighted	(10)	
7 Days in Term		
Center to Center (IDEA), Unweighted	10	0

2. [Ref. 53] Our general test of student transportation disclosed that one PK student was incorrectly reported in the Two Miles or More ridership category. The Two Miles or More ridership category is reserved for students in grades K-12; however, we determined that the student was eligible for reporting in the IDEA (PK), Unweighted ridership category. We propose the following adjustment:

February 2012 Survey		
90 Days in Term		
IDEA (PK), Unweighted	1	
Two Miles or More	(1)	0

3. [Ref. 52] Two students in our sample were incorrectly reported in IDEA-Weighted ridership categories. The IEP for one student did not indicate one of the five criteria required for IDEA-Weighted classification; however, we determined that the student was eligible for reporting in the Two Miles or More ridership category. The IEP for one PK student did not document the criteria for weighted funding as it related to the student's individual disability; however, we determined that the student was eligible for reporting in the IDEA (PK), Unweighted ridership category. We propose the following adjustments:

October 2011 Survey		
90 Days in Term		
IDEA (K-12), Weighted	(1)	
Two Miles or More	1	

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this schedule.

SCHEDULE G (Continued)

Hardee County District School Board
Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP)
Student Transportation
FINDINGS AND PROPOSED ADJUSTMENTS
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2012

Findings		**Students Transported Proposed Net Adjustments**
February 2012 Survey		
90 Days in Term		
IDEA (PK), Weighted	(1)	
IDEA (PK), Unweighted	1	0
Proposed Net Adjustment		0

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this schedule.

SCHEDULE H

Hardee County District School Board
Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP)
Student Transportation
RECOMMENDATIONS AND REGULATORY CITATIONS
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2012

RECOMMENDATIONS

We recommend that management exercise more care and take corrective action, as appropriate, to ensure that: (1) transported students are reported for the correct ridership classification as determined by the students' grade levels, ESE status, and other factors and for the correct number of days in term, and (2) students reported in IDEA-Weighted classifications are appropriately documented as meeting one of the five criteria and as noted on the students' IEPs.

The absence of statements in this report regarding practices and procedures followed by the District should not be construed as acceptance, approval, or endorsement of those practices and procedures. Additionally, the specific nature of this report does not limit or lessen the District's obligation to comply with all State requirements governing student transportation.

REGULATORY CITATIONS

Chapter 1006, Part I, E., FS .....Transportation of Public K-12 Students
Section 1011.68, FS .....Funds for Student Transportation
Chapter 6A-3, FAC .....Transportation
Student Transportation General Instructions 2011-2012

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this schedule.

Hardee County District School Board
Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP)
Student Transportation
NOTES TO SCHEDULES
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2012

NOTE A – SUMMARY

A summary discussion of the significant features of student transportation and related areas follows:

1. Student Eligibility

Any student who is transported by bus must meet one or more of the following conditions in order to be eligible for State transportation funding: live two or more miles from school, be physically handicapped, be a Career Education 9-12 or an ESE student who is transported from one school center to another where appropriate programs are provided, or be on a route that meets the criteria for hazardous walking conditions specified in Section 1006.23(4), Florida Statutes.

2. Transportation in Hardee County

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2012, the District received approximately $1 million for student transportation as part of the State funding through FEFP. The District's transportation reporting by survey was as follows:

Survey Period	Number of Vehicles	Number of Students
July 2011	0	0
October 2011	31	2,298
February 2012	31	2,395
June 2012	0	0
Total	62	4,693

3. Statutes and Rules

The following statutes and rules are of significance to the District's administration of student transportation:

Chapter 1006, Part I, E., FS ..... Transportation of Public K-12 Students
Section 1011.68, FS ..... Funds for Student Transportation
Chapter 6A-3, FAC ..... Transportation

Hardee County District School Board
Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP)
Student Transportation
NOTES TO SCHEDULES
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2012

NOTE B – SAMPLING

Our examination procedures provided for the selection of samples of buses and students using judgmental methods for testing the number of students transported as reported to the Department of Education for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2012. Our sampling process was designed to facilitate the performance of appropriate examination procedures to test the District's compliance with State requirements governing students transported.

EXHIBIT A
MANAGEMENT'S RESPONSE

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF HARDEE COUNTY

P.O. BOX 1678
WAUCHULA, FLORIDA 33873

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES
1009 NORTH 6TH AVENUE
WAUCHULA, FLORIDA 33873

BOARD MEMBERS
Mildred Smith
Paul Samuels
Janice Platt
Teresa Crawford
Thomas Trevino

David D. Durastanti, Superintendent of Schools (863) 773-9058
Woody Caligan, Deputy Superintendent Fax (863) 773-0069

June 21, 2013

David W. Martin, CPA
Auditor General
G74 Claude Pepper Building
111 West Madison Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1450

Dear Mr. Martin:

Hardee County District Schools have received your preliminary and tentative examination findings and recommendations regarding full-time equivalent (FTE) students under the Florida Education Finance Program and students transported for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2012.

District administration and staff have reviewed and accept the findings and recommendations. We have begun implementing corrective action to address the FTE and student transportation findings. For example, the following relates to FTE students findings 11 and 13 which will have a significant impact to the District's weighted FTE:

> Hardee District Schools utilize the Portal to Exceptional Education Resources (PEER) Statewide IEP system. As we transitioned into the use of the Matrix of Services form on PEER, dating and closing the forms on the system was not consistently completed with accuracy. Training with staffing specialists, teachers and other support staff will be provided regarding review and updating of the ESE Matrix of Services for students at Support Levels 4 and 5 to ensure that the forms are current and accurately reflect the services documented on the IEP. Matrix of Services Training will be provided through the ESE Department utilizing the 2012 Edition of the Florida Department of Education Matrix of Services Handbook.

We appreciate your suggestions to improve the Hardee County School system.

Sincerely,

David Durastanti
Superintendent of Schools

Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer