



## GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
Office of the Secretary

February 12, 2019

Michael Josephson  
President and Founder  
Joseph & Edna Josephson Institute of Ethics  
CHARACTER COUNTS! / ¡Desarrollando Carácter!

Dear Mr. Josephson,

I am writing in response to an email you sent on November 15, 2018, as well as the follow up email of February 5, 2019 regarding payment under the ¡Desarrollando Carácter! contract. As you noted in your earlier email, the Puerto Rico Department of Education (PRDE) was waiting for the completion of an investigation by our internal auditor. That investigation has come to a conclusion, and a report was issued on October 31, 2018.

Said report raised serious issues about the process used to develop and award the contract. Accordingly, PRDE has referred the report's findings to the Office of the Inspector General and the Risk Management Service for the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) for any appropriate action. Due to the irregularities identified in the internal auditor's investigation we do not believe it would be prudent to issue payments for related invoices with federal funds allocated to PRDE, until such time as USDE addresses the various concerns and authorizes disbursement.

Thank you for your patience as we continue to work with the federal authorities to resolve this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Julia B. Keleher".

Julia B. Keleher  
Secretary