

## MEMORANDUM

May 13, 2015

**TO:** The Honorable Chair and Members of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida

**FROM:** Alberto M. Carvalho, Superintendent of Schools *MC*

**SUBJECT: STATE RELEASE OF INITIAL RESULTS FOR THE SPRING 2015 FLORIDA COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT TEST (FCAT 2.0) READING RETAKE AND NEXT GENERATION SUNSHINE STATE STANDARDS (NGSSS) ALGEBRA 1 END-OF-COURSE (EOC) RETAKE**

On Friday, May 8, 2015, the Florida Department of Education released the first round of results from the Spring 2015 administration of the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT 2.0) and Next Generation Sunshine State Standards (NGSSS) End-of-Course (EOC) Retakes. Specifically, results were released for students who had previously taken the FCAT 2.0 Reading or NGSSS Algebra 1 EOC but had not yet passed, as required for graduation. The state has released these results in advance of other assessment results to facilitate graduation decisions.

The FCAT 2.0 Reading Retake and Algebra 1 EOC Retake are computer-based assessments that address the NGSSS and are scheduled for administration through spring of 2016 and spring 2017, respectively. These versions of the graduation tests are administered to allow students from earlier cohorts to take the tests aligned to the curriculum they received. It should be noted that any students currently enrolled in Algebra 1 for the first time would take the new Florida Standards End-of-Course Assessment in Algebra, not this version.

Students may also participate in the ACT or SAT to achieve concordant scores in reading, or in Florida's Postsecondary Education Readiness Test to achieve comparative scores in mathematics in order to meet high school graduation requirements.

Overall, 13,140 Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) students in grades 11 and 12 participated in the FCAT 2.0 Reading Retake administration while 9,786 students participated in the NGSSS Algebra 1 EOC Retake administration. The numbers of students tested, a summary of state and District results, and additional information on the testing program are found as attachments to this memorandum.

The following are highlights of the results:

- Fewer M-DCPS students participated in the 2015 administration of the FCAT 2.0 Reading Retake than in 2014, due to more students passing in earlier administrations or receiving concordant scores to meet the high school graduation requirement.

- More students statewide took the Algebra 1 Retake to meet graduation test requirements, and the percent passing statewide dropped by six percentage points while passing rates in M-DCPS dropped by three points.

Results for the FSA ELA in grades 3-10, FSA Mathematics in grades 3-8, FCAT 2.0 Science for students in grades 5 and 8, FSA EOCs and the remaining NGSSS EOCs will be provided as soon as they become available. Complete District, state, and school summary reports will also be made available at <http://oada.dadeschools.net/>. School shipments of Individual Student Reports will be forwarded to schools for distribution to parents.

If you have any questions about the attached results, please contact Ms. Marie Izquierdo, Chief Academic Officer, Office of Academics and Transformation, at 305 995-1451, or Ms. Gisela Feild, Administrative Director, Assessment, Research, and Data Analysis, at 305 995-2943.

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Attachment

cc: School Board Attorney  
Superintendent's Cabinet  
Superintendent's Senior Staff  
Ms. Gisela Feild

**Summary of District and State Results for the  
Spring 2015 Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT/FCAT 2.0)  
Reading and Mathematics Retakes: Grades 11 – 12 and  
Next Generation Sunshine State Standards (NGSSS)  
Algebra 1 End-of Course (EOC) Retake**

On May 8, 2015, the Florida Department of Education released data from the Spring 2015 administration of the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT/FCAT 2.0) Reading and Mathematics Retake tests and Next Generation Sunshine State Standards (NGSSS) Algebra 1 End-of Course (EOC) Retake. The tables that follow provide summaries of the data for students participating in the Reading Retake graduation test and the NGSSS Algebra 1 EOC Retake. Only 30 high school students districtwide, who entered grade 9 prior to 2010-2011, were eligible to participate in the FCAT Mathematics Retake; these results have not been included in this memorandum.

All Florida public school students are required to pass specific tests to meet high school graduation requirements. All students who entered grade 9 in 2012-2013 or earlier must pass the FCAT 2.0 Reading as a graduation test requirement, and students who entered grade 9 in 2010-2011 and beyond must also pass the Algebra 1 EOC. The FCAT 2.0 Reading Retake addresses the NGSSS and is currently scheduled for administration through spring of 2016. Students who entered grade 9 in 2013-2014 and beyond must pass the new FSA ELA instead of the FCAT 2.0 Reading as a graduation test requirement for a standard diploma. Similarly, students currently enrolled in Algebra 1 for the first time take the new FSA Algebra 1 EOC instead of the NGSSS Algebra 1 EOC as a graduation test requirement.

Students who participate in Retake administrations represent a small proportion of the population; they may include students new to the state and/or District who have never taken the graduation assessments, as well as students who have taken the assessments one or more times previously. In addition to the yearly spring administration, the FCAT/FCAT 2.0 Retake administration is offered in the fall. The EOC assessments, however, are offered more frequently: fall, winter, spring, and summer.

Students who do not achieve a passing score on the FCAT 2.0 Reading Retake or FCAT Mathematics Retake may participate in the ACT or SAT to achieve a concordant score, while students who do not achieve a passing score on the Algebra 1 EOC Retake may participate in the Postsecondary Education Readiness Test Mathematics to achieve a comparative score for high school graduation purposes.

Retake assessments are administered on a computer. All eligible students took the computer-based test (CBT) with the exception of students with disabilities who were unable to test on the computer and had appropriate accommodations documented on a current Individual Education Plan or Section 504 Plan. The scores for all students participating in either CBT or paper-based administrations are included in these summary results.

The Spring 2015 FCAT administration was the last opportunity for current grade 12 students to pass the Retake prior to their scheduled graduation. Students may participate in Retake administrations after their scheduled graduation date if they meet eligibility requirements.

### ***Interpreting Retake Results***

Several factors must be considered in interpreting the Retake results. First, students take only the test(s) (Reading, Algebra 1/Mathematics, or both) they have not yet passed. As such, the FCAT/FCAT 2.0 Retake administrations are NOT census administrations; not all students in grades 11 and 12 participate. Additionally, the EOC assessments are NOT census administrations for a particular grade level. Accelerated middle school students and senior high students participate. Thus, the number of students tested varies from year to year and from school to school, and higher performing students represent smaller proportions of the test-takers as students near graduation. As a result, interpretations about changes in passing rates should be made with caution.

The FCAT 2.0 Reading Retake scores are reported using the FCAT 2.0 developmental scale scores, which can range from 188 to 302. Test results for the NGSSS Algebra 1 are also reported using developmental scale scores which can range from 325 to 475.

In addition to the scale scores, results are also reported in terms of Achievement Levels, which can range from Level 1 (low) to Level 5 (high). Level 3 represents a "passing" score for both the Reading and Algebra 1 EOC Retake assessments.

Results for the FCAT 2.0 Reading Retake are provided in Table 1 which lists the number of students in grades 11 and 12 who tested in reading, and the passing rates in 2014 and 2015. Also included in the tables are the percentages of the total number of students enrolled grades 11 and 12 who participated in this administration of the FCAT 2.0 Reading Retake. Additionally, some students, such as those retained in grade 10 or those who took the test after their scheduled graduation dates (grade 13 and adult education students), participated in this administration. However, summaries of the results for these other students are not provided, as the number of participants is too small to allow for appropriate comparisons.

Table 2 presents the NGSSS Algebra 1 EOC results for students participating in a retake administration and the percentage passing in 2014 and 2015. These results include all participating students, regardless of grade level.

**Table 1**  
**FCAT 2.0 Reading Retake**  
**Grades 11 and 12: District and State, 2014 and 2015**  
**Number Tested, Percent of Enrolled Students Tested, and Passing Rates**

READING		DISTRICT			STATE		
		Number Tested	Percent of Enrolled Students Tested*	Passing Rate	Number Tested	Percent of Enrolled Students Tested*	Passing Rate
Grade 11	2014	9,316	35	26	62,050	31	26
	2015	8,660	33	22	56,485	28	21
Grade 12	2014	4,794	19	20	28,004	15	20
	2015	4,480	17	20	28,262	15	19

\*Denotes the number of students participating in this FCAT 2.0 Retake administration as a percentage of the total number of enrolled students.

**Table 2**  
**Algebra 1 End-of-Course Retake**  
**District and State: 2014 and 2015**  
**Number Tested and Percent Passing (All Grades)**

ALGEBRA 1	DISTRICT		STATE	
	Number Tested	Percent Passing	Number Tested	Percent Passing
2014	8,224	14	54,260	19
2015	9,786	11	58,246	13