


MEMORANDUM

June 1, 2012

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

FROM: Alberto M. Carvalho, Superintendent of Schools 

SUBJECT: STATE RELEASE OF RESULTS FOR THE SPRING 2012 FLORIDA ALGEBRA 1 END-OF-COURSE (EOC) ASSESSMENT

Today the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) released results from the Spring 2012 administration of the Florida Algebra 1 End-of-Course (EOC) assessment. The Algebra 1 EOC measures student achievement of the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards (NGSSS), as outlined in the Algebra 1 course description.

Last year, Florida began transitioning from traditional comprehensive assessments at the high school level (Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test) to End-of-Course assessments that specifically target content in high school courses. The Algebra 1 assessment was first administered in Spring 2011; followed by Geometry and Biology 1 administered for the first time this Spring.

All students enrolled in one of the targeted courses, or an equivalent, must participate in the EOC administration, regardless of the students' grade level. As such, accelerated middle school students participate, as well as senior high students. The State's EOC assessments are delivered via a computer-based testing (CBT) platform, except to students with allowable accommodations documented on an Individual Education Plan (IEP) or Section 504 Plan.

In 2011, during the first year of administration of the Algebra 1 EOC, students' scores were reported as T-Scores (ranging 20 – 80), with an additional indicator of whether the student scored in the low, middle or high third in comparison to the students participating statewide. Beginning in 2012, students receive a scale score ranging from 325-475, as well as Achievement Levels that range from 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest). Level 3 indicates satisfactory performance and constitutes a passing score.

Students who entered Grade 9 in the 2011-12 school year (i.e. 2011-12 cohort) and beyond will be required to earn a passing score on the Algebra 1 EOC in order to earn high school credit for the course. This requirement includes middle school students seeking high school course credit for Algebra 1. Students who entered Grade 9 in 2010-11 are not held to "passing score" criteria, but instead have the Algebra 1 EOC score included as 30 percent of their final Algebra 1 course grade.

In Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS), 26,038 first-time testers and 1,397 retakers participated in the Algebra 1 EOC. A table summarizing District and State results is provided as an attachment, including the following highlights:

- Improvement in M-DCPS first time test takers' success rates on the Algebra 1 EOC significantly outpaced that of students statewide from 2011 to 2012.
 - The percentage of M-DCPS first time test takers scoring in Levels 3 through 5 on the Algebra 1 EOC increased from 47% during the first administration of the test in Spring 2011 to 56% in Spring 2012.
 - M-DCPS success rates improved nine percentage points (47% in 2011 to 56% in 2012), as compared to four percentage points (55% in 2011 to 59% in 2012) for the State.
- M-DCPS middle grade students scored remarkably well on the Algebra 1 EOC, with 90% achieving EOC scores required to earn high school credit (Levels 3 or above).
- The vast majority of the students taking the Algebra 1 EOC were in Grades 7 through 9, and were required to earn passing scores of Levels 3 or above to receive high school credit for the course.
- Overall, 56% of the M-DCPS students who participated in the Algebra 1 EOC for the first time scored in Levels 3 through 5.
- Higher percentages of M-DCPS students taking the Algebra 1 EOC exam as a retake administration received passing scores than their counterparts statewide and in other selected districts.
 - 52% of all M-DCPS students retaking the Algebra 1 EOC passed, as compared to only 43% statewide.

Complete District, State, and school summary reports will be made available on the FLDOE website at <http://fcats.fldoe.org/mediapacket/2012/default.asp>. Principals can access school lists of students' results on the test contractor's secure website at www.pearsonaccess.com/fl. In addition, information on the scoring process is provided in *Understanding Florida End-of-Course Assessment Scores* at <http://fcats.fldoe.org/eoc/pdf/2012UEOCR12.pdf>. School shipments of individual student reports for the Algebra 1 EOC will be forwarded to schools as soon as they are received.

Should you have any questions about the attached Algebra 1 EOC results, please contact Ms. Deborah Karcher, Chief Information Officer, Information Technology Services, at 305 995-3751, or Ms. Gisela Feild, Administrative Director, Assessment, Research, and Data Analysis, at 305 995-7512.

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Attachments

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

Summary of District and State Results for the Spring 2012 Florida Algebra 1 End-of-Course (EOC) Assessment

On June 1, 2012, the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) released District and State summary data from the Spring 2012 administration of Florida's Algebra 1 End-of-Course assessment. The table that follows provides a summary of the data for students in Grades 7 through 12 who participated in the Algebra 1 EOC.

Last year, the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) transitioned from comprehensive assessments in mathematics and science (Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test) to EOC assessments for certain high school courses. The first course with standardized End-of-Course testing in Florida is Algebra 1, administered as a baseline assessment in 2010-11. Algebra 1 has been followed by Biology 1 and Geometry EOC assessments phased in during the 2011-12 school year. The Algebra 1 EOC assessment measures student achievement of the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards (NGSSS), as outlined in the Algebra 1 course description. The Algebra 1 EOC was delivered via a computer-based testing (CBT) platform for all students. Paper-based tests (regular and Braille) were provided for students with disabilities that require such accommodations as documented on a current Individual Education Plan (IEP) or Section 504 Plan.

Please note that the Algebra 1 EOC is NOT a census administration: students in a specific grade level only participate if they are enrolled in Algebra 1 or an equivalent course. As such, students at any grade level who are enrolled in the course may take the test, typically Grades 7 through 12. Thus, the number of students tested can vary from grade to grade, year to year, and school to school.

During the first year of administration of the Algebra 1 EOC in 2010-11, T-Scores were reported, which could range from 20 to 80. In addition, scores were provided to indicate whether a student scored in the low (1), middle (2), or upper third (3) of all students tested statewide. Beginning in 2012, students will receive a scale score ranging from 325-475 along with an Achievement Level that can range from 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest). Level 3 indicates satisfactory performance. The FLDOE has provided "retrofitted" summary scores for the 2011 administration of the Algebra 1 EOC to facilitate comparisons (<http://fcats.fldoe.org/mediapacket/2012/default.asp>).

By Florida Statute (s. 1003.428, FS), students entering Grade 9 in the 2011-12 school year and moving forward, must achieve a passing score of Achievement Level 3 or above (scale score 399 or higher) in order to earn course credit in Algebra 1, as required to meet graduation requirements. This requirement also applies to middle school students seeking high school course credit for Algebra 1 or an equivalent. However, students who entered Grade 9 in the 2010-11 school year are not held to this requirement; instead their score on the Algebra 1 EOC must be used to calculate 30% of their final course grade.

Students have multiple opportunities to retake the Algebra 1 EOC in subsequent years to achieve a passing score and earn the required high school credit for Algebra 1 prior to graduation. As such, the results that follow examine the performance of two groups of students: those taking the EOC for the first time, and those participating in a retake administration, having failed the test and/or the course during a previous attempt. Caution must be taken in interpreting the results of retake administrations, as the reasons for participation vary widely among schools and districts. Factors impacting participation rates include: passing rates in previous administrations, credit accrual requirements for various cohorts, and trends/policies regarding enrollment into courses by grade level.

Table 1 lists the numbers of M-DCPS students in Grades 7 through 12 who took the Algebra 1 EOC for the first time, their mean scale scores, and the percentages scoring at each Achievement Level. Tables 2 and 3 present comparisons of M-DCPS results with selected districts and the state.

Table 1
Algebra 1 End of Course Assessment: District and State, 2012
Mean Scale Score and Percentages of First-Time Test Takers
Scoring at Each Achievement Level, by Grade

First Time Test Takers		Number Tested	Mean Scale Score	Percentages at Each Achievement Level					Levels 3-5
				1	2	3	4	5	
District	Grade 7	1,984	426	1	8	35	26	29	90
	Grade 8	5,337	423	2	9	42	25	23	89
	Grade 9	17,897	391	23	32	35	7	3	44
	Grade 10	362	374	44	34	17	2	3	21*
	Grade 11	259	376	42	31	21	4	2	27*
	Grade 12	177	376	44	31	18	5	2	25*
	Total	26,038	400	18	26	36	12	9	56
State	Grade 7	13,020	432	1	5	28	24	42	94
	Grade 8	49,472	421	2	12	41	22	22	86
	Grade 9	112,401	393	19	33	38	7	3	48
	Grade 10	13,332	379	36	39	23	2	1	25
	Grade 11	3,351	380	37	36	23	3	1	28
	Grade 12	1,584	382	35	33	26	5	2	33
	Total	193,262	402	15	26	37	11	10	59

Note: The totals include a small number of students in Grades 6, and Adult. Results include all students testing for the first time, including students with disabilities and English language learners.

*Most students in these grade levels are not required to pass the EOC in order to obtain High School credit in the course.

Table 2
Algebra 1 End-of-Course Assessment, 2012
Number Tested and Passing Rates for First-Time Test Takers
Selected Districts and State

First Time Test Takers		Cohorts Held to Passing Criteria for Course Credit		
		Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9
Miami-Dade	% Passing	90%	89%	44%
	# Students	1,984	5,337	17,897
Broward	% Passing	99%	94%	57%
	# Students	1,593	2,601	10,983
Hillsborough	% Passing	96%	78%	28%
	# Students	362	7,464	4,174
Palm Beach	% Passing	99%	96%	44%
	# Students	896	2,430	7,341
State	% Passing	94%	86%	48%
	# Students	13,020	49,472	112,401

Table 3
Algebra 1 End-of-Course Assessment, 2012
Number Tested and Passing Rates for Retakers
Selected Districts and State

Retakers	All Grades	
	% Passing	# Students (% of all tested)
Miami-Dade	52%	1,397 (5.1%)
Broward	16%	58 (0.3%)
Hillsborough	39%	679 (4.8%)
Palm Beach	39%	1,276 (10.0%)
State	43%	7,798 (3.9%)