


MEMORANDUM

May 24, 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 GEOMETRY AND BIOLOGY 1 END-OF-COURSE (EOC) ASSESSMENTS

Today the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) released results from the Spring 2012 administration of the Florida Geometry and Biology 1 End-of-Course (EOC) assessments. Florida is transitioning from traditional comprehensive assessments at the high school level (i.e., the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test) to End-of-Course assessments that specifically target content in high school courses. The first EOC in this series was administered in the 2010-2011 school year to students enrolled in Algebra 1.

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 2012 during the first year of administration of the Geometry and Biology 1 EOC assessments, students' scores will be reported as T-Scores, which can range from 20 to 80, with an additional indicator of whether the student scored in the low, middle, or high third in comparison to all students participating statewide. In addition, the Geometry and Biology 1 scores for students who are part of the 2011-2012 9th Grade cohort must be included as 30 percent of their final grades in those courses. In subsequent years, passing scores and Achievement Levels will be set and reported, and students will need to pass the test to receive credit for the course, as required to meet graduation requirements.

In Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS), 27,472 students participated in the Geometry EOC, and 25,858 students participated in the Biology 1 EOC. Following are highlights of the results, and a table summarizing State and District results is attached.

Geometry EOC

- In Geometry, 27 percent of all M-DCPS students scored in the upper third of all students tested statewide.
- Over three-quarters of M-DCPS 8th Grade students taking Geometry scored in the State's upper third.

Biology 1 EOC

- In Biology 1, 29 percent of all M-DCPS students scored in the upper third of all students tested statewide.
- 70% of M-DCPS 8th Grade students taking Biology 1 scored in the State's upper third.

Complete District, State, and school summary reports will also be made available on the FLDOE website at <http://fcat.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://fcat.fldoe.org/eoc/pdf/2012UEOCR12.pdf>. School shipments of individual student reports for the Geometry and Biology 1 EOC assessments will be forwarded to schools as soon as they are received.

If you have any questions about the attached Geometry and Biology 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 Geometry and Biology 1 End-of-Course (EOC) Assessments

On May 24, 2012, the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) released District and State summary data from the Spring 2012 administration of Florida's new Geometry and Biology 1 End-of-Course assessments. The tables that follow provide a summary of the data for students in Grades 7 through 12.

The Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) is transitioning from comprehensive assessments in mathematics and science (i.e., Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test) to End-of-Course (EOC) assessments for certain high school courses. The first course to transition to End-of-Course testing in Florida was Algebra I, administered for the first time in 2010-11, followed by Geometry and Biology 1 EOC assessments being phased in this year. The EOC assessments measure student achievement of the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards (NGSSS), as outlined in the associated course descriptions. EOC assessments are delivered via a computer-based testing (CBT) platform for all students. Paper-based tests (regular and Braille) are 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 Geometry and Biology 1 EOC assessments are NOT census administrations: students in a specific grade level do not participate in an EOC; instead students only participate if they are enrolled in the applicable course 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, T-Scores will be reported, which can range from 20 to 80. An additional indicator is provided to denote whether a student scored in the low (1), middle (2), or upper third (3) of all students tested statewide.

By Florida Statute (s. 1003.428, FS), the Geometry and Biology 1 EOC assessment score(s) must be used to calculate 30 percent of the final course grade for students who entered Grade 9 in the 2011-12 school year (9th Grade cohort). The office of Assessment, Research, and Data Analysis will complete this process and update students' final grades as soon as the data are edited and posted. Applicable students' report cards will not include a final grade for Geometry or Biology 1. However, a ConnectEd message will be sent to parents and students when the final grades are posted on the Portal.

A new Geometry and Biology 1 EOC scale will be established this fall that will be used in subsequent years and will become a new measure for school accountability. In addition, when the new scale is established, a passing score and Achievement Levels will be determined. Beginning with students entering Grade 9 in the 2012-13 school year, all students enrolled in Geometry and Biology 1 or equivalent courses will be required to earn passing scores to earn course credit, as required to meet graduation requirements. If needed, students will have multiple opportunities to retake the EOC assessments in subsequent years to earn the required high school credits prior to graduation.

Tables 1 and 2 list the numbers of M-DCPS students in Grades 7 through 12 who tested, the mean T-score for 2012, and the percentages scoring in the high, middle, and low statewide categories, by grade level for Geometry and Biology 1. District and State summary scores across all tested grade levels are also presented in the table.

Table 1
2012 Florida Geometry End-of-Course (EOC) Assessment
Grades 7 - 12: Miami-Dade County Public Schools
Number Tested, Mean T-Score, and Percent by Thirds

	Number Tested	Mean T-Score	Statewide Comparison by Thirds		
			Low (1)	Middle (2)	High (3)
M-DCPS	27,472*	46	44	28	27
Grade 8	1,719	60	4	18	77
Grade 9	5,560	54	18	30	52
Grade 10	18,465	43	54	29	17
Grade 11	1,224	41	64	25	11
Grade 12	458	39	70	24	6
FLORIDA	188,168*	49	35	31	34

* Includes a small number of students in Grade 7 and students enrolled in adult education.

Table 2
2012 Florida Biology 1 End-of-Course (EOC) Assessment
Grades 7 - 12: Miami-Dade County Public Schools
Number Tested, Mean T-Score, and Percent by Thirds

	Number Tested	Mean T-Score	Statewide Comparison by Thirds		
			Low (1)	Middle (2)	High (3)
M-DCPS	25,858*	47	41	30	29
Grade 8	1,164	58	7	23	70
Grade 9	7,925	54	17	31	52
Grade 10	15,590	43	55	30	15
Grade 11	747	42	63	21	16
Grade 12	392	41	62	26	12
FLORIDA	190,344*	49	34	31	35

* Includes a small number of students in Grade 7 and students enrolled in adult education.