


MEMORANDUM

May 19, 2005

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

FROM: Rudolph F. Crew, Superintendent of Schools 

SUBJECT: **STATE RELEASE OF THE 2005 FLORIDA COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT TEST (FCAT) SCORES: READING AND MATHEMATICS RESULTS FOR GRADES 4-10 AND SCIENCE RESULTS FOR GRADES 5, 8, AND 11**

On Thursday, May 19, 2005 Governor Jeb Bush and Commissioner of Education John Winn released 2005 Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) Sunshine State Standards (SSS) and Norm Referenced Test (NRT) Reading and Mathematics district and school results for students in grades 4-10, the Science results for students in grades 5, 8, and 11, and the Grade 10 FCAT SSS graduation test passing rates.

Approximately 209,000 Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) students in grades 4-11 participated in the March 2005 FCAT administration. The 2005 FCAT SSS Reading, Mathematics, and Science results and the graduation test results for grade 10 students are presented in the highlights below and the attached *District Highlights and Summary Tables*.

***Highlights of the 2005 FCAT SSS Grades 4-10 Reading and Mathematics, SSS Grades 5, 8, and 11 Science, and NRT Grades 4-10 Reading and Mathematics***

Grades 4-10 FCAT SSS Reading and Mathematics

Reading

- In 2005, the percent of the district's students scoring at the lowest level, Reading Achievement Level 1 **remained constant or declined at all grade levels except grade 10**. Decreases range from -1 percent at grades 7 and 8 to -13 percent at grade 5.
- In 2005, the percent of district students scoring at Reading Achievement Levels 3 -5, the higher levels, **increased at all grades except 8 and 10**. Increases range from + 1 percent at grade 4 to +15 percent at grade 5.
- The gap between the district and the state for the percent of students scoring at levels 3-5 is narrowing at grades 5, 6, 7, and 9.
- The district's average scores in reading **improved at a greater rate than that of state students at most grade levels**, with increases double and triple those of the state at grades 5, 6, and 7.

## Mathematics

- In 2005, in mathematics, the percent of district students scoring at Mathematics Achievement **Level 1 decreased and the percent scoring in the highest levels, 3-5, increased at all grade levels except grade 4.**
- The district's average mathematics scores **showed more improvement** than the scores of students statewide at grades 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9, with increases double those of the state at grades 5, 6, and 9.

## Grades 5, 8, and 11 FCAT SSS Science

- Average science scores increased at grades 5 and 8 for both the district and the state; **at grade 5, the +20 point increase for district students was double the increase for students statewide.**

## Grades 4-10 FCAT NRT Reading and Mathematics

### Reading

- For the first time, **the district's median percentile scores in reading are at or above the national average in grades 5, 8, 9, and 10.**
- Significant improvements are noted at grades 9 and 10; scores improved from 16 points below the national average in 2004 to scores that are at or above the national average in 2005.

### Mathematics

- The district's median percentile **scores in mathematics are above the national average at all grades except grade 10.**

State, district, and school summary reports are available on the state website at: <http://fcap.fldoe.org>. School shipments of individual student reports will be delivered to schools the week of May 23-27, 2005, by Comet Delivery Services. Should you have any questions about the attached results, please contact Dr. Kriner Cash, Chief, Accountability and Systemwide Performance, at 305 995-1814.

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### Attachment

cc: School Board Attorney  
Superintendent's Senior Staff  
Assessment and Data Analysis Staff

## **2005 FCAT**

### **DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS AND SUMMARY TABLES DISTRICT AND STATE RESULTS FOR ALL CURRICULUM GROUPS (ALL STUDENTS TESTED)**

- SECTION I: GRADES 4-10 FCAT SSS READING AND MATHEMATICS
- SECTION II: GRADE 10 FCAT GRADUATION TEST
- SECTION III: GRADES 5, 8, AND 11 FCAT SSS SCIENCE
- SECTION IV: GRADES 4-10 FCAT NRT READING AND MATHEMATICS

## MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS SPRING 2005 FCAT RESULTS

### SECTION I: GRADES 4-10 FCAT SSS READING AND MATHEMATICS

The information reported below is based on the results of all students tested and includes Students with Disabilities and Limited English Proficient (LEP) students. Approximately 189,800 students in grades 4-10 participated in the 2005 FCAT Reading and Mathematics administration.

**Table 1. Percent of Students Scoring at FCAT SSS Reading Achievement Levels 1, 2, and 3-5, for 2003, 2004, and 2005, and Difference 04-05, for All Grades 4-10 Students Tested, for the District and the State**

#### READING

READING	Level 1				Level 2				Levels 3-5			
	2003	2004	2005	Diff. 04-05	2003	2004	2005	Diff. 04-05	2003	2004	2005	Diff. 04-05
<b>GRADE 4</b>												
DISTRICT	34	17	17	0	15	15	14	-1	51	68	69	+1
STATE	25	16	15	-1	15	14	13	-1	60	70	71	+1
<b>GRADE 5</b>												
DISTRICT	35	33	20	-13	19	18	16	-2	46	49	64	+15
STATE	25	24	18	-6	18	17	16	-1	57	59	66	+7
<b>GRADE 6</b>												
DISTRICT	40	40	35	-5	18	20	21	+1	42	40	44	+4
STATE	28	26	25	-1	18	20	20	0	54	54	56	+2
<b>GRADE 7</b>												
DISTRICT	39	38	37	-1	21	21	21	0	40	41	43	+2
STATE	28	27	27	0	21	20	21	+1	51	53	53	0
<b>GRADE 8</b>												
DISTRICT	38	38	37	-1	26	26	29	+3	36	36	34	-2
STATE	26	30	27	-3	26	26	30	+4	48	44	44	0
<b>GRADE 9</b>												
DISTRICT	55	52	46	-6	24	26	26	0	21	22	28	+6
STATE	43	39	35	-4	27	29	28	-1	30	32	36	+4
<b>GRADE 10</b>												
DISTRICT	45	46	50	+4	30	28	27	-1	25	26	23	-3
STATE	33	37	39	+2	32	29	29	0	35	34	32	-2

Notes: Achievement Levels range from Level 1 (lowest) to Level 5 (highest).  
All calculations have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Percents may not total 100 due to rounding.

**Table 2. Percent of Students Scoring at FCAT SSS Mathematics Achievement Levels 1, 2, and 3-5, for 2003, 2004, and 2005, and Difference 04-05, for All Grades 4-10 Students Tested, for the District and the State**

**MATHEMATICS**

MATHEMATICS	Level 1				Level 2				Level 3-5			
	2003	2004	2005	Diff. 04-05	2003	2004	2005	Diff. 04-05	2003	2004	2005	Diff. 04-05
<b>GRADE 4</b>												
DISTRICT	28	16	16	0	24	22	22	0	48	62	61	-1
STATE	22	15	15	0	23	21	21	0	55	64	64	0
<b>GRADE 5</b>												
DISTRICT	28	26	17	-9	27	27	27	0	45	47	57	+10
STATE	23	21	16	-5	26	27	27	0	51	52	57	+5
<b>GRADE 6</b>												
DISTRICT	41	44	39	-5	22	21	21	0	37	35	40	+5
STATE	31	33	31	-2	22	22	22	0	47	45	47	+2
<b>GRADE 7</b>												
DISTRICT	42	39	34	-5	21	21	22	+1	37	40	44	+4
STATE	31	30	26	-4	21	21	22	+1	48	49	53	+4
<b>GRADE 8</b>												
DISTRICT	34	31	30	-1	24	23	21	-2	42	46	49	+3
STATE	22	23	21	-2	22	21	20	-1	56	56	59	+3
<b>GRADE 9</b>												
DISTRICT	36	34	28	-6	26	25	24	-1	38	41	48	+7
STATE	23	22	20	-2	25	23	21	-2	52	55	59	+4
<b>GRADE 10</b>												
DISTRICT	28	23	22	-1	23	24	24	0	49	53	54	+1
STATE	19	16	15	-1	20	21	22	+1	61	63	63	0

Notes: Achievement Levels range from Level 1 (lowest) to Level 5 (highest).  
 All calculations have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Percents may not total 100 due to rounding.

## **FCAT SSS READING**

- In 2005, the percent of the district's students scoring at the lowest level, Reading Achievement Level 1:
  - remained constant at grade 4,
  - decreased at grades 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9, with decreases ranging from -1 percent at grade 7 and 8 to -13 percent at grade 5, and
  - increased at grade 10 by 4 percent.
- In 2005, the percent of district students scoring at the higher achievement levels, Reading Achievement Levels 3 -5:
  - increased at grades 4, 5, 6, 7, and 9, with increases ranging from +1 to +15 percent, and
  - decreased at grades 8 and 10.
- Sixty-nine (69) and 64 percent of district grade 4 and 5 students are performing at or above grade level in reading.
- The pattern of performance for the state is similar to that of the district; students in grades 8 and 10 did not perform as well as students in other grades.
- The achievement gap in reading between the performance of district and state students scoring at levels 3-5 is narrowing at grades 5, 6, 7, and 9.

## **FCAT SSS MATHEMATICS**

- In 2005, the percent of the district's students scoring at the lowest level, Mathematics Achievement Level 1:
  - remained constant at grade 4, and
  - decreased at grades 5 - 10, with decreases ranging from -1 to -9 percent,
- In 2005, the percent of district students scoring at the higher achievement levels, Mathematics Achievement Levels 3-5:
  - decreased by 1 percentage point at grade 4, and
  - increased at all other grade levels, with increases ranging from +1 to +10 percent.
- The majority of students in grades 4, 5, and 10 are scoring at or above grade level in mathematics.
- The achievement gap in mathematics between the percent of district and state students scoring at or above grade level is narrowing at grades 5, 6, 9, and 10; at grade 5, the percent of students scoring in this range is equal to the state's.

In addition to Achievement Levels, FCAT results are also reported on a scale that ranges from 100 to 500. Tables 3 and 4 provide information on the average scale score in Reading and in Mathematics, respectively, for 2003, 2004, and 2005, for the district and for the state, by grade level. In reviewing these results, it is appropriate to compare the performance at each grade level across several years. However, because each grade level is scaled independently, it is not appropriate to make comparisons between grade levels.

**Table 3. FCAT SSS Average Reading Scale Scores for 2003, 2004, and 2005, and the Difference from 2004 to 2005 for All Students Tested in the District and the State**

<b>READING</b>	<b>Grade 4</b>	<b>Grade 5</b>	<b>Grade 6</b>	<b>Grade 7</b>	<b>Grade 8</b>	<b>Grade 9</b>	<b>Grade 10</b>
<b>DISTRICT</b>							
<b>2003</b>	292	273	274	278	284	272	285
<b>2004</b>	313	278	275	279	281	278	287
<b>2005</b>	314	297	282	283	282	287	282
<b>Diff. 04-05</b>	+1	+19	+7	+4	+1	+9	-5
<b>STATE</b>							
<b>2003</b>	305	290	295	297	301	291	302
<b>2004</b>	318	294	297	298	295	295	300
<b>2005</b>	319	303	299	299	297	301	296
<b>Diff. 04-05</b>	+1	+9	+2	+1	+2	+6	-4

Table 3 provides the following information:

- The district's average reading scores increased at grades 4 through 9 and decreased at grade 10. Most notable are the +19, +7, and +9 point increases at grades 5, 6, and 9, respectively.
- State average reading scores show a similar pattern from 2004 to 2005. However, the district's performance in reading improved at a greater rate than the state's at most grade levels, with increases double and triple those of the state at grades 5, 6, and 7.

**Table 4. FCAT SSS Average Mathematics Scale Scores for 2003, 2004, and 2005, and the Difference from 2004 to 2005 for All Students Tested**

<b>MATHEMATICS</b>	<b>Grade 4</b>	<b>Grade 5</b>	<b>Grade 6</b>	<b>Grade 7</b>	<b>Grade 8</b>	<b>Grade 9</b>	<b>Grade 10</b>
<b>DISTRICT</b>							
<b>2003</b>	287	311	285	279	294	273	306
<b>2004</b>	309	314	283	284	298	277	311
<b>2005</b>	309	328	293	290	301	286	311
<b>Diff. 04-05</b>	0	+14	+10	+6	+3	+9	0
<b>STATE</b>							
<b>2003</b>	298	320	302	296	310	293	320
<b>2004</b>	312	322	301	299	311	296	323
<b>2005</b>	312	329	305	303	313	300	322
<b>Diff. 04-05</b>	0	+7	+4	+4	+2	+4	-1

Table 4 provides the following information:

- The district's average mathematics scores remained stable or increased at all grade levels. Most notable are the +14, +10, and +9 point increases at grades 5, 6, and 9, respectively.
- Average mathematics scores remained stable for the district at grades 4 and 10; statewide, grade 4 scores also remained constant, but grade 10 mathematics average scores declined.
- The district's mathematics scores showed more improvement than the scores of students statewide at grades 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9, with increases double those of the state at grades 5, 6, and 9.



**SECTION II: GRADE 10 FCAT GRADUATION TEST**

The Grade 10 FCAT SSS is also the graduation test for Florida students seeking a standard high school diploma. The Spring FCAT administration in the tenth grade year is the first opportunity that students have to take and pass the graduation test. In the March 2005 FCAT SSS graduation test administration for grade 10 students, 26,519 students took the Reading test and 26,378 took the Mathematics test. These are not unduplicated counts, as the majority of students have taken both tests.

The passing score in effect for the grade 10 classes of 2003, 2004, and 2005 is 300 in Reading and 300 in Mathematics. The passing rate information provided below is for first-time test takers and does not include retained grade 10 students.

**Table 5. Grade 10 FCAT Graduation Test Percent of Grade 10 Students Passing on the First Attempt for 2003, 2004 and 2005, and the Difference from 2004 to 2005**

<b>READING PERCENT PASSING</b>				
	2003	2004	2005	Difference 2004-2005
District	46%	45%	41%	-4
State	58%	54%	52%	-2
<b>MATHEMATICS PERCENT PASSING</b>				
	2003	2004	2005	Difference 2004-2005
District	63%	67%	68%	+1
State	73%	76%	77%	+1

Some highlights of the March 2005 FCAT graduation test are:

- When compared to the passing rates from 2004, the passing rates for district students decreased in reading and increased in mathematics.
- The statewide grade 10 passing rate trend is similar to that of the district.
- At both the state and district levels, passing rates were higher in mathematics than in reading.

### SECTION III: GRADES 5, 8, AND 11 FCAT SSS SCIENCE

Table 6 presents information on the FCAT SSS Science scores of students in the district and the state. In 2003 and 2004, students were tested in SSS Science at grades 5, 8, and 10. In 2005, the FCAT SSS Science grade levels tested in senior high schools was moved from grade 10 to grade 11. The 2005 Science results for grade 11 students will constitute the baseline year for this assessment.

Only scale score information is reported at each grade level because Achievement Levels for the FCAT SSS Science have not yet been set by the state. The 2005 FCAT SSS Science results reported are based on 22,569 students tested at grade 5; 28,128 students tested at grade 8; and 19,540 students tested at grade 11.

**Table 6. FCAT SSS Average Science Scale Scores for 2003, 2004, 2005, and Difference 2004-2005, for All Students Tested**

SCIENCE	Grade 5	Grade 8	Grade 10	Grade 11
<b>DISTRICT</b>				
<b>2003</b>	270	269	271	N/A
<b>2004</b>	266	269	262	N/A
<b>2005</b>	286	272	N/A	275
<b>Diff. 04-05</b>	+20	+3	N/A	N/A
<b>STATE</b>				
<b>2003</b>	285	287	290	N/A
<b>2004</b>	286	286	287	N/A
<b>2005</b>	296	291	N/A	293
<b>Diff. 04-05</b>	+10	+5	N/A	N/A

- Average science scores increased at grades 5 and 8 for both the district and the state from 2004 to 2005.
- At grade 5, the district's average science score increased by +20 points, double the increase for students statewide.
- At grade 11, the district's average science score is below the state's. However, the performance of district grade 11 students in 2005 is closer to that of state students than was the case for district and state grade 10 students in 2004.

## SECTION IV: GRADES 4-10 FCAT NRT READING AND MATHEMATICS

Results from the 2005 FCAT NRT are provided in Tables 7 and 8, below. In attempting to compare the 2005 FCAT NRT results with those from 2004 and prior years, it is important to keep in mind that the test edition used changed in 2005. In 2004 and earlier, the FCAT NRT was based on the *Stanford Achievement Test, Ninth Edition* (SAT-9), while the 2005 FCAT NRT is based on the *Stanford Achievement Test, Tenth Edition* (SAT10). Because the test edition has changed, the results from 2005 are not directly comparable to those from 2004 and earlier. It is appropriate to make comparisons between the reported median percentile score for the district and that reported for the state for the same administration, as well as between those and the national median percentile rank.

**Table 7. FCAT NRT Reading Comprehension Median Percentiles for 2003, 2004, 2005 for All Students Tested**

READING	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9	Grade 10
<b>DISTRICT</b>							
<b>2003 SAT-9</b>	48	44	41	45	44	33	35
<b>2004 SAT-9</b>	59	46	42	47	49	34	34
<b>2005 SAT-10</b>	49	57	43	46	57	53	50
<b>STATE</b>							
<b>2003 SAT-9</b>	58	55	53	57	58	44	46
<b>2004 SAT-9</b>	63	56	54	57	60	44	45
<b>2005 SAT-10</b>	55	61	54	56	67	63	61

Note: The national median percentile is 50

- For the first time, the district median percentile scores in reading are at or above the national average in grades 5, 8, 9, and 10.
- Significant improvements are noted at grades 9 and 10; scores improved from 16 points below the national average in 2004 to at or above the national average in 2005.
- Statewide, students are scoring above the national average in reading at all grade levels.

**Table 8. FCAT NRT Mathematics Median Percentiles for 2003, 2004, 2005, for All Students Tested**

<b>MATHEMATICS</b>	<b>Grade 4</b>	<b>Grade 5</b>	<b>Grade 6</b>	<b>Grade 7</b>	<b>Grade 8</b>	<b>Grade 9</b>	<b>Grade 10</b>
<b>DISTRICT</b>							
<b>2003 SAT-9</b>	56	54	52	53	53	53	55
<b>2004 SAT-9</b>	66	56	54	55	56	57	55
<b>2005 SAT-10</b>	57	61	51	57	59	63	47
<b>STATE</b>							
<b>2003 SAT-9</b>	64	63	64	66	65	66	66
<b>2004 SAT-9</b>	69	63	66	67	66	69	66
<b>2005 SAT-10</b>	63	64	61	65	67	71	58

Note: The national median percentile is 50

- The district's SAT-10 median percentile scores in mathematics are above the national average at all grades except grade 10.
- Statewide, students are scoring above the national average in mathematics at all grade levels.