


# MEMORANDUM

May 1, 2006

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

**FROM:** Rudolph F. Crew, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools 

**SUBJECT: STATE RELEASE OF THE SPRING 2006 FLORIDA COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT TEST (FCAT) GRADE 3 AND GRADES 11 AND 12 RETAKE RESULTS**

The Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) released today the Spring 2006 Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) results for grade 3 and grades 11 and 12 retakes. Specifically, the results released today are the grade 3 Sunshine State Standards (SSS) and Norm-Referenced Test (NRT) Reading and Mathematics district and school results and the FCAT graduation test retake results for students in grades 11 and 12. The state released these scores in advance of the other grade levels because of the promotion and graduation decisions that require consideration of FCAT results. The grade 3 and retake scores provide summary data based on the scores of **all students tested; these are not the scores that will be used for accountability purposes**. The FLDOE will release the 2006 School Performance grades in late June 2006.

In Miami-Dade County Public Schools, 28,759 grade 3 students participated in the Spring 2006 FCAT administration. In the Spring 2006 FCAT retake administration, over 13,000 grade 11 and 12 students who had not previously taken or passed the graduation test participated in the assessment.

An overview of the District's results is provided in the highlights below and in the attached District Highlights and Summary Tables.

## ***Highlights of the State Release of the 2006 FCAT Grade 3 SSS and NRT and Grades 11 and 12 Retake Results***

### **Grade 3 FCAT SSS**

- The percent of District students scoring at the lowest level, Achievement Level 1, decreased by 7% in reading and 3% in mathematics.
- The percent of District third graders scoring at the higher achievement levels, levels 3-5 increased by 10% in reading and 6% in mathematics.
- The District grade 3 average FCAT SSS scores increased by 12 points in reading and by 9 points in mathematics.
- District improvement rates exceed those of the state, narrowing the achievement gap between District and state grade 3 students.

## **ZONE Schools**

- From 2005 to 2006, the percent of grade 3 students attending ZONE schools who are scoring at Achievement Level 1 decreased by 11% and by 10% in reading and mathematics, respectively, while the percent scoring in the highest Achievement Levels 3-5 increased by 17% in reading and 10% in mathematics.
- The achievement gap is narrowing: performance gains made by ZONE students outpaced the gains of students statewide in both reading and mathematics.
- After three years of significant improvements, the majority of grade 3 ZONE students are scoring at the higher Achievement Levels, 3-5.

## **Grade 3 FCAT NRT**

- The median percentile scores for District grade 3 students increased 14 points in reading and 10 points in mathematics.
- District grade 3 students scored 7 and 14 points above the national average in reading and mathematics, respectively.
- The score increases made by District grade 3 students exceeded those made by students statewide in both reading and mathematics.

## **Grades 11 and 12 FCAT Retakes**

- Passing rates in reading and mathematics decreased for both grades 11 and 12 for the District and the state.
- The percent of grade 12 students participating in the FCAT retake has increased in reading and declined in mathematics as compared to 2005, for both the District and the state.

Reports of District, state, and school-by-school summary results are available online at: <http://oada.dadeschools.net/06FCAT.asp>. A new FLDOE initiative will allow school administrators to access their school lists of individual student results via a secure website. An additional initiative, the FCAT Parent Network, provides parents with a different secure website to access their child's individual scores beginning on Wednesday, May 3, 2006. For the Spring 2006 FCAT administration, only the Reading and Mathematics SSS individual student test results will be available online on the FCAT Parent Network website. The grade 3 and retake results will be available on this site in advance of the delivery of printed reports.

School shipments of individual student reports for the grade 3 FCAT SSS, NRT and the FCAT retake will be forwarded to schools as soon as the shipment is received. The remainder of the Spring 2006 FCAT SSS Reading and Mathematics scores for students in grades 4 -10, and the FCAT SSS Science results for students in grades 5, 8, and 11, are due to be released in May 2006.

A comprehensive report detailing information on District FCAT scores, including results by curriculum group and ethnicity and school trends, will be transmitted to the School Board as soon as it is available.

Should you have any questions about the attached results, please contact Ms. Antoinette Dunbar, Deputy Superintendent, Curriculum, Instruction, and School Improvement, at 305-995-1451, or Ms. Gisela Feild, Administrative Director, Assessment and Data Analysis, at 305-995-7512.

RFC/AD/GF/NR:af-v  
M1478

Attachment

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

**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS SPRING 2006 FCAT  
GRADE 3 SSS AND NRT, AND GRADES 11 AND 12 RETAKE  
DISTRICT AND STATE RESULTS**

**SECTION I: GRADE 3 FCAT SSS**

The information reported below is based on the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) release on May 1, 2006. Please note that the results reported are based on all students tested and include Students With Disabilities (SWD) and Limited English Proficient (LEP) students. The grade 3 results also include students enrolled in grade 3 for the first time and retained third grade students. Approximately 15% of the third graders tested are retained students.

**Table 1. Percent of Grade 3 Students Scoring In Achievement Levels 1, 2, and 3-5, in Reading and Mathematics, for 2004, and 2005, and 2006, and Difference 2005-2006, All Students Tested, All Schools**

<b>READING</b>	<b>STATE</b>				<b>DISTRICT</b>			
	<b>2004 Percent of ALL Students</b>	<b>2005 Percent of ALL Students</b>	<b>2006 Percent of ALL Students</b>	<b>Diff. 05-06</b>	<b>2004 Percent of ALL Students</b>	<b>2005 Percent of ALL Students</b>	<b>2006 Percent of ALL Students</b>	<b>Diff. 05-06</b>
Level 1	22	20	14	-6	29	25	18	-7
Level 2	13	13	11	-2	14	14	11	-3
Levels 3-5	66	67	75	+8	57	61	71	+10
<b>MATH</b>	<b>STATE</b>				<b>DISTRICT</b>			
	<b>2004 Percent of ALL Students</b>	<b>2005 Percent of ALL Students</b>	<b>2006 Percent of ALL Students</b>	<b>Diff. 05-06</b>	<b>2004 Percent of ALL Students</b>	<b>2005 Percent of ALL Students</b>	<b>2006 Percent of ALL Students</b>	<b>Diff. 05-06</b>
Level 1	17	15	12	-3	24	18	15	-3
Level 2	19	17	16	-1	20	18	16	-2
Levels 3-5	64	68	72	+4	56	63	69	+6

- In reading, 18% of District grade 3 students scored in Achievement Level 1 in 2006, as compared to 25% in 2005, a 7% decrease from the prior year.
- In mathematics, 15% of District grade 3 students scored in Achievement Level 1 in 2006, as compared to 18% in 2005, a 3% decrease from the prior year.
- From 2005 to 2006, the percent of District students scoring in Achievement Level 2 decreased from 14% to 11% in reading and from 18% to 16% in mathematics.
- The percent of District students scoring in Levels 3 - 5 increased in 2006: from 61% to 71% in reading and from 63% to 69% in mathematics. This indicates that a substantial majority of District grade 3 students scored at the highest achievement levels.

**Table 2. Percent of District Grade 3 Students Scoring In Achievement Levels 1, 2, and 3-5, for 2004, 2005, and 2006 in Reading and Mathematics, and Difference 2005-2006, All Students Within ZONE Schools**

<b>READING GRADE 3</b>	<b>ZONE Percent of ALL Students</b>			
	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>Diff. 05-06</b>
Level 1	51	41	30	-11
Level 2	14	21	15	-6
Levels 3-5	35	38	55	+17
<b>MATHEMATICS GRADE 3</b>	<b>ZONE Percent of ALL Students</b>			
	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>Diff. 05-06</b>
Level 1	42	33	23	-10
Level 2	23	24	24	0
Levels 3-5	35	43	53	+10

From 2005 to 2006, the percent of grade 3 students attending ZONE schools who are scoring at:

- Achievement **Level 1**:
  - **decreased by 11%** in reading
  - **decreased by 10%** in mathematics
- Achievement **Level 2**:
  - **decreased by 6%** in reading
  - **remained constant** in mathematics
- Achievement **Levels 3-5**:
  - **increased by 17%** in reading
  - **increased by 10%** in mathematics
- The achievement gap is narrowing: performance gains made by ZONE students outpaced the gains of students statewide in both reading and mathematics.
- After three years of significant improvements, the majority of 2006 grade 3 ZONE students are scoring at the higher Achievement Levels, 3-5.

Average FCAT SSS scores are also reported on the traditional scale of 100 to 500 and are presented in Table 3.

**Table 3. FCAT SSS Average Reading and Mathematics Scale Scores for 2004, 2005, and 2006, and Difference 2005 to 2006, for All Grade 3 Students Tested, for the District and the State**

<b>GRADE 3</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>Difference 05-06</b>
<b>READING</b>				
<b>District</b>	288	294	306	+12
<b>State</b>	303	305	313	+8
<b>MATHEMATICS</b>				
<b>District</b>	296	310	319	+9
<b>State</b>	310	317	324	+7

Note: Scale scores range from 100 to 500.

Table 3 provides the following information:

- The District grade 3 reading average score increased by 12 points from 2005 to 2006, as compared to the state increase of 8 points.
- The District grade 3 mathematics average score increased by 9 points, while the state average increased by 7 points.
- Improvements in average scores for District students are greater than those made by students statewide in both reading and mathematics.

## SECTION II: GRADE 3 FCAT NRT

Results from the Grade 3 Spring 2006 FCAT NRT are provided in Table 3, below. The state's FCAT NRT is the *Stanford Achievement Test, Tenth Edition* (SAT-10). Data from years prior to 2005 are not presented because the scores were based on the ninth edition of the SAT and are, therefore, not comparable to the 2005 and 2006 data.

The 2006 FCAT NRT (SAT-10) was administered to more than 28,700 third grade students, including LEP, SWD, and students retained in grade 3.

**Table 4. FCAT NRT Reading Comprehension and Mathematics Median Percentiles for 2005 and 2006, and Difference 2005-2006, District and State, All Grade 3 Students Tested**

GRADE 3	2005 SAT-10	2006 SAT-10	Diff. 05-06
<b>READING</b>			
District	43	57	+14
State	50	61	+11
<b>MATHEMATICS</b>			
District	54	64	+10
State	62	67	+5

Note: The national median percentile is 50.

A review of Table 4 indicates:

- Both District and state grade 3 students achieved higher median percentile ranks in mathematics than in reading, continuing an established pattern.
- In comparison with the national median percentile of 50, District grade 3 students scored 7 and 14 points above the national average in reading and mathematics, respectively.
- The score increases made by District grade 3 students exceeded those made by student statewide in both reading and mathematics.
- A review of score changes from 2005 to 2006 indicates that the gap between the District and the state is narrowing, from 7 points to 4 points in reading and from 8 points to 3 points in mathematics.

## **SECTION II: FCAT GRADUATION RETAKE GRADES 11 AND 12**

### **Background**

The Spring 2006 FCAT administration was the last opportunity for grade 12 students who had not yet taken or passed the FCAT Reading and/or Mathematics portions of the graduation test to meet Florida's testing requirement prior to their scheduled graduation date.

The first FCAT graduation administration takes place in the spring of the tenth grade. Students who participate in subsequent re-administrations of the FCAT represent a small proportion of the population, and include students who are taking the FCAT for the first time (i.e., new to the state) as well as students who have previously attempted the test one or more times. Students must attain a score of 300 (on a scale from 100 - 500) on both the reading and mathematics portion in order to pass.

### **Factors to Consider**

Duplicate counts: Please note that the number tested are reported by subtest. These figures can not be added to represent the total number tested because they contain duplicate counts (i.e., some students took both the reading and the math; some took only one subtest).

Variations in Number Tested: The re-administrations are NOT census administrations. Only those students who did not take or did not pass the FCAT graduation test during an earlier opportunity participate in the Spring FCAT retake administration. Thus, the number of students tested varies from year to year and from school to school. Interpretations about changes in passing rates should be made with caution.

Tables 5 and 6 provide information only on those students who were identified as grades 11 or 12 in the Spring administration in 2004, 2005, and 2006. Although students who were tested on the Spring graduation test retake administration include students retained in grade 10 and students in grades 11, 12, 13, and adult, the numbers tested in the other grades are too small to allow for appropriate comparisons.



**Table 5: Number and Percent of Test Takers and FCAT Retake Passing Rates for Reading, Grades 11 and 12, District and State, 2004, 2005, and 2006**

<b>FCAT READING</b>					
<b>Retakers</b>		<b>District</b>		<b>State</b>	
		<b>Number Tested (% of Population)*</b>	<b>Passing Rate</b>	<b>Number Tested (% of Population)*</b>	<b>Passing Rate</b>
<b>Grade 11</b>	<b>2004</b>	7,629 (33%)	28	41,801 (25%)	33
	<b>2005</b>	8,298 (34%)	19	49,092 (27%)	25
	<b>2006</b>	8,631 (34%)	14	51,567 (28%)	17
<b>Grade 12</b>	<b>2004</b>	4,469 (21%)	30	20,762 (14%)	34
	<b>2005</b>	3,853 (18%)	15	18,904 (13%)	20
	<b>2006</b>	4,484 (21%)	12	23,129 (15%)	14

\* Based on Fall enrollment data for each school year.

A review of Table 5 reveals:

- Passing rates in reading decreased at grades 11 and 12 for both the District and the state.
- While the percent of grade 11 students retaking the FCAT remained stable, the percent of grade 12 test takers increased by 3% and 2% for the District and state, respectively.

**Table 6: Number and Percent of Test Takers and FCAT Retake Passing Rates for Mathematics, Grades 11 and 12, District and State, 2004, 2005, and 2006**

<b>FCAT MATHEMATICS</b>					
<b>Retakers</b>		<b>District</b>		<b>State</b>	
		<b>Number Tested (% of Population)*</b>	<b>Passing Rates</b>	<b>Number Tested (% of Population)</b>	<b>Passing Rates</b>
<b>Grade 11</b>	<b>2004</b>	4,885 (21%)	24	27,156 (16%)	29
	<b>2005</b>	5,398 (22%)	32	29,846 (17%)	38
	<b>2006</b>	4,553 (18%)	26	26,399 (14%)	33
<b>Grade 12</b>	<b>2004</b>	2,612 (12%)	25	12,204 (8%)	26
	<b>2005</b>	2,463 (12%)	30	11,593 (8%)	35
	<b>2006</b>	2,232 (10%)	25	10,782 (7%)	29

\* Based on Fall enrollment data for each school year.

A review of Table 6 indicates:

- State and District level passing rates decreased for grades 11 and 12 retakers in Mathematics.
- The percent of test takers has decreased significantly from previous years at both the District and the state.