


MEMORANDUM

June 10, 2008

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 RESULTS FOR THE SPRING 2008 FLORIDA COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT TEST (FCAT) SUNSHINE STATE STANDARDS (SSS) READING, MATHEMATICS, AND SCIENCE FOR GRADES 3-11

Today, the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) released results from the Spring 2008 administration of the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) Sunshine State Standards (SSS) Reading, Mathematics, and Science assessments. Specifically, district-wide and school-level summary reports were provided for students in Grades 4 through 10 in Reading and Mathematics, and for students in Grades 5, 8, and 11 in Science. FCAT SSS scores for students in Grade 3 were released previously to facilitate promotion decisions, but are included in this memorandum to provide a comprehensive summary of District results. It should be noted that these summary scores include **all students tested and do not represent the groupings that will be used by the State for accountability purposes.**

Overall, more than 206,000 students in the Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) participated in the Spring 2008 FCAT administration. The performance of District students improved from 2007 to 2008, with increases in the percentages of students meeting the State's standards increasing at all grade levels and subject areas, except in Grade 5 Reading. Highlights of the M-DCPS students' results and summary tables providing comparisons of State and District results by grade level, and of District and School Improvement Zone results by elementary, middle, and senior high school grade level groups are provided as attachments to this memorandum.

Complete District, State, and school-level summary reports are available online at: <http://oada.dadeschools.net/FCAT/FCAT.asp>. Additional reports of District and school-level trends as well as disaggregated reports by curriculum group and demographic characteristics will be transmitted to the Board and posted online as they become available. School shipments of individual student reports are being forwarded to schools as they are received. In addition, parents may access their child's results using unique passwords via the FCAT Parent Network at www.fcaptoparentnetwork.com. The FLDOE will release the 2008 School Performance Grades in mid-July.

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

RFC:mb
M1547

Attachments

cc: Superintendent's Senior Staff

School Board Attorney

***Highlights of the Florida Department of Education's
Spring 2008 Summary Report for Miami-Dade County
Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT)
Sunshine State Standards (SSS)
Grades 3 through 11***

OVERALL

- From 2007 to 2008, the percentage of Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) students meeting the State's high standards on the FCAT SSS increased at every grade level and for every subject area, with only one exception (Grade 5 Reading).

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT ZONE

- Combined across all grade levels, the percentage of students attending schools in the School Improvement Zone who scored in Levels 3-5 in Mathematics increased by five points, with substantial increases in each of the last three years.
- In Reading, the overall percentage of students scoring in Levels 3-5 in the School Improvement Zone has also increased yearly.
 - While steady increases were evident in Reading for students in middle and senior high school grade levels, a slight decrease was observed in the percentage of students in elementary school grade levels scoring in Levels 3-5.

READING

- From 2007 to 2008, M-DCPS students' performance mirrored that of students statewide, with increases in the percentage of students scoring high (Levels 3-5) seen in every grade tested except Grade 5.

MATHEMATICS

- In Mathematics, greater percentages of M-DCPS students scored in Levels 3-5 in every grade tested from 2007 to 2008.
 - Substantial improvements for M-DCPS' secondary students in Grades 8-10 outpaced those of students statewide in Mathematics, with increases of as much as 8 points in the percentage of students scoring in Levels 3-5 in Grade 8.

SCIENCE

- Considerable yearly growth was seen in the percentage of students scoring in Levels 3-5 in all tested grade levels in Science from 2006 to 2008.
- M-DCPS students' growth in Science exceeded that of students in the state at all three grade levels tested, Grades 5, 8, and 11.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Summary of District and State Results for the
Spring 2008 Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT)
Sunshine State Standards (SSS)
Grades 3 through 11

On June 10, 2008, the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) released data from the Spring 2008 administration of the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) Sunshine State Standards (SSS) Reading, Mathematics, and Science assessments. The tables that follow provide summaries of the data for students in Grades 3 through 10 in Reading and Mathematics, and for students in Grades 5, 8, and 11 in Science.

The FCAT SSS is a criterion-referenced test, which measures students' mastery of grade level content as specified by the Sunshine State Standards. Results are usually reported in terms of achievement levels, which can range from Level 1 (low) to Level 5 (high), and are based on more precise scale scores. Note that the summary results presented are based on all students tested, including students with disabilities and English Language Learners, and do not represent the groupings that will be used by the State for accountability purposes.

Section I: Reading, Mathematics, and Science

Summaries of the results by grade groupings (Grades 3-5, 6-8, and 9-10) are presented for the District and for schools in the School Improvement Zone, with Reading and Mathematics results shown in Tables 1 & 2 respectively. The percentages of students scoring in Level 1, Level 2, and in Levels 3-5 in 2006, 2007, and 2008, are provided. Detailed results for the District and State by grade level are provided for Reading, Mathematics, and Science in Tables 3, 4, and 5, respectively.

Table 1
FCAT SSS Reading
District and School Improvement Zone, 2006, 2007, and 2008
Summaries by Grade Groupings
Percentages of Students Scoring in Achievement Levels 1, 2, and 3-5,

READING	District Percent of All Students				School Improvement Zone Percent of All Students			
	2006	2007	2008	Diff. 07-08	2006	2007	2008	Diff. 07-08
GRADES 3-5								
Level 1	19 ^a	20	20	0	32 ^a	32	35	+3
Level 2	15 ^a	15	15	0	20 ^a	20	19	-1
Levels 3-5	66 ^a	64	65	+1	48 ^a	48	46	-2
GRADES 6-8								
Level 1	27	25	22	-3	45	41	38	-3
Level 2	22	24	23	-1	25	28	28	0
Levels 3-5	51	51	55	+4	30	31	34	+3
GRADES 9-10								
Level 1	42	42	38	-4	64	63	59	-4
Level 2	28	28	28	0	23	25	26	+1
Levels 3-5	30	30	34	+4	12	12	15	+3
ALL GRADES 3-10								
Level 1	28 ^a	28	25	-3	49 ^a	47	45	-2
Level 2	21 ^a	22	21	-1	24 ^a	25	25	0
Levels 3-5	51 ^a	51	54	+3	27 ^a	28	30	+2

Note. The summary of all grades includes Grade 10 students participating in the standard FCAT SSS administration, not the FCAT Retake. Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

^aThe Florida Department of Education identified an error in the equating process used in 2006 to score the Grade 3 FCAT SSS Reading assessment, which impacted the reported scores for 2006. This may impact the gains and/or declines observed from 2006 to 2007.

Table 2
FCAT SSS Mathematics
District and School Improvement Zone, 2006, 2007, and 2008
Summaries by Grade Groupings
Percentages of Students Scoring in Achievement Levels 1, 2, and 3-5,

MATHEMATICS	District Percent of All Students				School Improvement Zone Percent of All Students			
	2006	2007	2008	Diff. 07-08	2006	2007	2008	Diff. 07-08
GRADES 3-5								
Level 1	16	15	14	-1	27	22	22	0
Level 2	21	21	19	-2	27	28	24	-4
Levels 3-5	63	64	67	+3	46	50	54	+4
GRADES 6-8								
Level 1	29	27	24	-3	50	47	42	-5
Level 2	22	22	22	0	24	25	25	0
Levels 3-5	49	51	55	+4	26	28	33	+5
GRADES 9-10								
Level 1	23	22	18	-4	39	38	32	-6
Level 2	24	25	23	-2	29	31	30	-1
Levels 3-5	53	54	60	+6	31	32	38	+6
ALL GRADES 3-10								
Level 1	22	21	18	-3	42	38	34	-4
Level 2	22	22	21	-1	27	28	27	-1
Levels 3-5	55	57	61	+4	32	34	39	+5

Note. The summary of all grades includes Grade 10 students participating in the standard FCAT SSS administration, not the FCAT Retake. Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Table 3
FCAT SSS Reading
District and State, 2006, 2007, and 2008
Percentages of Students Scoring in Achievement Levels 1, 2, and 3-5, by Grade

READING	Number Tested			Level 1				Level 2				Levels 3-5			
	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008	Diff. 07-08	2006	2007	2008	Diff. 07-08	2006	2007	2008	Diff. 07-08
GRADE 3															
District	28,744	27,812	27,722	18 ^a	24	21	-3	11 ^a	14	13	-1	71 ^a	63	67	+4
State	204,238	201,894	204,251	14 ^a	19	16	-3	11 ^a	13	12	-1	75 ^a	69	72	+3
GRADE 4															
District	26,315	26,049	25,495	20	21	20	-1	16	15	14	-1	64	64	65	+1
State	192,480	196,512	192,761	19	18	17	-1	16	14	13	-1	66	68	70	+2
GRADE 5															
District	26,601	25,780	25,974	19	17	20	+3	17	17	17	0	64	66	63	-3
State	197,054	192,289	195,400	17	14	17	+3	16	15	16	+1	67	72	67	-5
GRADE 6															
District	23,062	26,172	26,043	22	24	23	-1	17	21	20	-1	62	55	57	+2
State	186,948	198,295	193,844	18	19	18	-1	17	19	18	-1	64	62	63	+1
GRADE 7															
District	27,314	23,109	25,896	26	21	21	0	20	20	19	-1	53	59	60	+1
State	202,438	188,700	197,001	19	17	17	0	21	20	19	-1	61	63	65	+2
GRADE 8															
District	27,223	26,708	23,012	31	29	22	-7	29	30	30	0	40	40	49	+9
State	200,421	199,456	186,421	24	22	18	-4	30	29	29	0	46	49	53	+4
GRADE 9															
District	30,108	28,198	27,626	39	37	34	-3	29	30	29	-1	32	33	38	+5
State	212,904	207,794	205,515	30	28	25	-3	30	31	29	-2	40	41	46	+5
GRADE 10															
District	25,955	25,637	24,492	45	47	42	-5	28	26	27	+1	27	27	30	+3
State	185,568	186,048	185,276	38	39	35	-4	29	28	27	-1	32	34	38	+4

Note. Achievement Levels range from Level 1 (lowest) to Level 5 (highest). The summary of all grades includes Grade 10 students participating in the standard FCAT SSS administration, not the FCAT Retake. Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

^a The Florida Department of Education identified an error in the equating process used in 2006 to score the Grade 3 FCAT SSS Reading assessment, which impacted the reported scores for 2006. This may impact the gains and/or declines observed from 2006 to 2007.

Table 4
FCAT SSS Mathematics
District and State, 2006, 2007, and 2008
Percentages of Students Scoring in Achievement Levels 1, 2, and 3-5, by Grade

MATHEMATICS	Number Tested			Level 1				Level 2				Levels 3-5			
	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008	Diff. 07-08	2006	2007	2008	Diff. 07-08	2006	2007	2008	Diff. 07-08
GRADE 3															
District	28,759	27,810	27,720	15	14	11	-3	16	16	14	-2	69	70	75	+5
State	204,042	201,862	204,180	12	12	10	-2	16	14	13	-1	72	74	76	+2
GRADE 4															
District	26,325	26,032	25,488	15	14	13	-1	20	19	18	-1	65	67	68	+1
State	192,610	196,632	192,792	14	13	12	-1	19	18	18	0	67	69	71	+2
GRADE 5															
District	26,591	25,827	26,016	19	18	18	0	28	29	24	-5	53	54	58	+4
State	197,076	192,369	195,418	17	15	15	0	27	26	24	-2	57	59	61	+2
GRADE 6															
District	23,039	26,173	26,038	30	33	31	-2	21	23	22	-1	49	44	47	+3
State	186,792	198,195	193,758	26	28	26	-2	21	22	21	-1	53	50	53	+3
GRADE 7															
District	27,312	23,099	25,869	29	23	22	-1	23	22	22	0	48	55	56	+1
State	202,303	188,619	196,797	23	20	18	-2	22	21	21	0	55	59	61	+2
GRADE 8															
District	27,199	26,699	22,991	27	25	18	-7	22	21	20	-1	51	54	62	+8
State	200,431	199,297	186,211	20	18	14	-4	20	19	19	0	60	63	67	+4
GRADE 9															
District	29,966	28,103	27,553	25	24	20	-4	26	25	22	-3	49	51	58	+7
State	212,359	207,364	205,001	18	17	15	-2	23	22	20	-2	59	60	65	+5
GRADE 10															
District	25,838	25,518	24,429	20	19	15	-4	22	24	23	-1	58	57	62	+5
State	184,635	185,346	184,617	15	14	12	-2	19	20	19	-1	65	65	69	+4

Note. Achievement Levels range from Level 1 (lowest) to Level 5 (highest). The summary of all grades includes Grade 10 students participating in the standard FCAT SSS administration, not the FCAT Retake. Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Table 5
FCAT SSS Science
District and State, 2006, 2007, and 2008
Percentages of Students Scoring in Achievement Levels 1, 2, and 3-5, by Grade

SCIENCE	Number Tested			Level 1				Level 2				Levels 3-5			
	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008	Diff. 07-08	2006	2007	2008	Diff. 07-08	2006	2007	2008	Diff. 07-08
GRADE 5															
District	26,562	25,993	25,875	35	31	27	-4	36	35	34	-1	29	34	39	+5
State	195,877	191,789	194,991	29	25	23	-2	36	33	33	0	35	42	43	+1
GRADE 8															
District	26,977	26,580	22,885	46	41	32	-9	31	30	33	+3	23	29	35	+6
State	198,142	197,536	184,828	35	31	27	-4	33	31	33	+2	32	38	40	+2
GRADE 11															
District	20,624	22,136	22,079	43	42	38	-4	31	32	33	+1	25	26	29	+3
State	149,848	164,580	165,456	32	30	29	-1	33	33	33	0	35	37	38	+1

Note. Achievement Levels range from Level 1 (lowest) to Level 5 (highest). Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Section II: GRADE 10 FCAT SSS GRADUATION TEST PASSING RATES

High school students must pass FCAT Reading and Mathematics tests to meet Florida's testing requirement for a standard diploma. Students have multiple opportunities to do so prior to graduation. The first FCAT administration that can be used to satisfy the graduation requirement takes place in the spring of tenth grade, as part of the standard FCAT SSS assessment program. In Spring 2008, 24,492 Grade 10 students took the FCAT SSS Reading test and 24,429 took the Mathematics test. These are duplicated counts, as the majority of the students took both tests.

FCAT scale scores can range from 100 to 500, and students must attain passing scores of 300 on both the Reading and the Mathematics tests to graduate with a standard diploma. The passing rate information provided below is for first-time test takers and does not include retained Grade 10 students who took the FCAT Retake format of the test.

Table 6
Grade 10 FCAT SSS Reading and Mathematics
District and State, 2006, 2007, and 2008
Percentages of Students Meeting Graduation Requirements on the First Attempt

GRADE 10	PERCENT PASSING			
	2006	2007	2008	Difference 2007-2008
READING				
District	46%	44%	49%	+5
State	52%	52%	57%	+5
MATHEMATICS				
District	71%	71%	76%	+5
State	77%	78%	81%	+3