


MEMORANDUM

May 15, 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): GRADES 11 - 12 RETAKE

Today, the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) released results from the Spring 2008 administration of the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) Retake for students in Grades 11 and 12. Specifically, district-wide and school-level summary reports were provided for the FCAT Retake in reading and mathematics, representing the scores of students in Grades 11 and 12 who participated in the Spring 2008 administration, having not yet passed the reading and/or mathematics tests required for graduation.

The State has released these results in advance of the results for the standard FCAT assessment program to facilitate graduation decisions. Results for students in Grades 3-10 will be released on a staggered schedule, between now and June 6, 2008.

In Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS), 13,803 students in Grades 11 and 12 participated in the reading part of the graduation test and 6,479 participated in the mathematics part of the graduation test. Combined across Grades 11 and 12, 2,095, or 15% of those taking the reading assessment, and 1,940, or 30% of those taking the mathematics assessment, achieved passing scores. Overall, passing rates remained constant or improved for M-DCPS' Grade 11 and 12 students from 2007-2008. Summary reports and tables with District and State results are provided as attachments.

Complete District, State, and school-level summary reports are available online at: <http://oada.dadeschools.net/FCAT/FCAT.asp>. School shipments of individual student reports for the FCAT Retake will be forwarded to schools as they are received. Additional reports of FCAT results will be released as they become available. School performance grades are expected 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.

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Attachments

cc: School Board Attorney
Superintendent's Senior Staff

**Highlights of the Florida Department of Education's
Spring 2008 Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) Summary Report
Miami-Dade County Public Schools
Grades 11 – 12 FCAT Retake**

- From 2007 to 2008 passing rates remained constant or improved for M-DCPS' Grade 11 and 12 students who had not previously passed the FCAT graduation tests.
- In mathematics, higher percentages of the District's participating Grade 11 and 12 students obtained passing scores on the FCAT Retake in Spring 2008, increasing from 24% in 2007 to 30% in 2008. Notably, passing rates in mathematics for students in Grade 11 increased eight percentage points, to 33%.
- In reading, passing rates remained constant in Spring 2008, with 15% of the District's participating Grade 11 and 12 students obtaining passing scores.
- The FCAT Retake passing rates for students in M-DCPS continued to lag behind those of students in the State.

**Summary of District and State Results for the
Spring 2008 Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT)
Grades 11 and 12 FCAT Retake**

On May 15, 2008, the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) released State and District summary data from the Spring 2008 administration of the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) Retake. The initial summary data include FCAT Retake graduation exam results for students in Grades 11 and 12.

High school students must pass the FCAT reading and mathematics tests to meet Florida's graduation requirement for a standard diploma. Students have at least six 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 assessment program. Students who participate in FCAT Retake administrations represent a small proportion of the population, and may include students new to the State and/or District who have never taken the FCAT, as well as students who have taken the assessment one or more times previously. In addition to the yearly spring administration, which is offered in conjunction with the standard FCAT assessment program, FCAT Retake administrations are offered in the fall and in the summer. The Spring 2008 FCAT administration was the last opportunity for current Grade 12 students to pass the FCAT Retake prior to their scheduled graduation. Continuing students may participate in Retake administrations after their scheduled graduation date if they meet eligibility requirements.

Interpreting FCAT Retake Results

Several factors must be considered in interpreting the FCAT Retake results. First, students only need to take the test(s) they have not yet passed: reading, mathematics, or both. As such, the number tested in reading and in mathematics can not be added to represent the total number tested, as some students took both tests while others only needed to take one.

In addition, the Retake administrations are NOT census administrations; not all students in Grades 11 and 12 participate. Only those students who did not take or did not pass the FCAT graduation test during an earlier opportunity are eligible to participate in the Retake administration. Thus, the number of students tested varies from year to year and from school to school, and higher performing students represent smaller proportions of the test-takers as students near graduation. As such, interpretations about changes in passing rates should be made with caution.

FCAT Retake scores are reported in terms of scale scores, ranging from 100 to 500. Students must attain scores of 300 on both the reading and the mathematics tests to be eligible to graduate with a standard diploma.

Tables 1 and 2 list the numbers of Grade 11 and 12 students tested in reading and mathematics, respectively, and the passing rates from 2006 through 2008. Also included in the tables are the percentages of the total number of enrolled Grade 11 and 12 students participating in this administration of the FCAT Retake. Note that other students also participated in this administration, such as those retained in Grade 10 or those who took the test after their scheduled graduation dates (Grade 13 and adult education students). However, summaries of the results for these other students are not provided, as the number of participants is too small to allow for appropriate comparisons.

Table 1
FCAT Retake Reading
Grades 11 and 12: District and State, 2006, 2007, and 2008
Number Tested, Percent of Enrolled Students Represented, and Passing Rates

READING		DISTRICT			STATE		
		Number Tested	Percent of Enrolled Students Tested*	Passing Rate	Number Tested	Percent of Enrolled Students Tested*	Passing Rate
Grade 11	2006	8,631	34	14%	51,567	28	17%
	2007	9,129	37	16%	56,099	30	20%
	2008	8,780	36	17%	55,593	29	22%
Grade 12	2006	4,484	21	12%	23,129	15	14%
	2007	4,992	23	13%	25,815	16	15%
	2008	5,023	22	12%	24,069	15	16%

* Denotes the number of students participating in this FCAT Retake administration as a percentage of the total number of enrolled students, by grade level.

Table 2
FCAT Retake Mathematics
Grades 11 and 12: District and State, 2006, 2007, and 2008
Number Tested, Percent of Enrolled Students Represented, and Passing Rates

MATHEMATICS		DISTRICT			STATE		
		Number Tested	Percent of Enrolled Students Tested*	Passing Rate	Number Tested	Percent of Enrolled Students Tested*	Passing Rate
Grade 11	2006	4,553	18	26%	26,399	14	33%
	2007	4,523	18	25%	27,120	15	33%
	2008	4,282	17	33%	25,257	13	39%
Grade 12	2006	2,232	10	25%	10,782	7	29%
	2007	2,200	10	21%	10,633	7	26%
	2008	2,197	10	24%	9,971	6	32%

* Denotes the number of students participating in this FCAT Retake administration as a percentage of the total number of enrolled students, by grade level.