


MEMORANDUM

May 28, 2009

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 2009 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 2009 administration of the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) Sunshine State Standards (SSS) Reading, Mathematics, and Science assessments. Specifically, District and School 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. Although the FCAT SSS scores for students in Grade 3 were released previously to facilitate promotion decisions, they 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 2009 FCAT administration. The M-DCPS students' Reading and Mathematics scores improved from 2008 to 2009 at most grade levels, with growth also seen in elementary Science scores. In addition, record numbers of tenth grade students passed the Reading and Mathematics graduation tests on their first attempt. Further, achievement improved substantially in both reading and math for students in three M-DCPS schools (Liberty City Elementary, Holmes Elementary, and Miami Central Senior High), identified for intensive District intervention as part of the State's Differentiated Accountability system. Highlights of the M-DCPS students' results and summary tables providing comparisons of State and District results by grade level are provided as attachments to this memorandum.

Complete District, State, and School Summary Reports are available online at: <http://oada.dadeschools.net/FCAT/FCAT.asp>. Additional reports of District and school 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. The FLDOE will release the 2009 School Performance Grades in mid-July.

Should you have any questions about the attached 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.

AMC:mcb
M1023

Attachments

cc: School Board Attorney
Superintendent's Senior Staff

***Highlights of the Florida Department of Education's
Spring 2009 Summary Report for Miami-Dade County
Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT)
Sunshine State Standards (SSS)
Grades 3 through 11***

OVERALL

- Improvement in all three subject areas (reading, mathematics, and science) was seen for District elementary school students in grades 4 and 5, with sizeable increases in the percentage of students scoring in Levels 3 - 5.
 - The percentage of the District's students in grade 3 scoring in Levels 3 – 5 in mathematics increased from 2008 to 2009, but declined slightly in reading.
- The performance of District middle school students was mixed, with marked improvement in the percentage of students in grade 6 scoring high from 2008 to 2009 in both reading and mathematics; less consistent results were evident in grades 7 and 8.
- Overall, the FCAT Reading and Mathematics results for the District's senior high school students improved substantially from 2008 to 2009, outpacing state gains in the percentages of ninth and tenth grade students scoring high (Levels 3 - 5).

READING

- District students' mean Scale Scores and Developmental Scale Scores improved in reading in all grades 4 through 10 from 2008 to 2009.
- Fifty-one percent of the District's tenth grade students passed the FCAT Reading graduation test on their first attempt in March 2009, exceeding 50% for the first time and closing in on the overall percentage of the students passing statewide.

MATHEMATICS

- District students' mean Scale Scores and Developmental Scale Scores improved in mathematics in all but grades 7 and 8 from 2008 to 2009.
- Seventy-eight percent of the District's tenth grade students passed the FCAT Mathematics graduation test on their first attempt in March 2009, closing the gap in the overall percentage of the students passing statewide.

SCIENCE

- Mean Scale Scores improved in science for District students in grade 5 from 2008 to 2009; the scores declined slightly for students in grades 8 and 11.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Summary of District and State Results for the
Spring 2009 Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT)
Sunshine State Standards (SSS)
Grades 3 through 11

On May 28, 2009, the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) released data from the Spring 2009 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 reported in terms of achievement levels which can range from Level 1 (low) to Level 5 (high); Scale Scores, which can range from 100 – 500 at each grade level; and Developmental Scale Scores, which represent a continuous scale across all grade levels and can range from 0 to 3000. Note that the summary results presented are based on all students tested, including students with disabilities (SWD) and English Language Learners (ELL), and do not represent the groupings that will be used by the State for accountability purposes.

Section I: Reading, Mathematics, and Science

The following tables provide a view of student performance across three years: 2007, 2008, and 2009. Detailed results showing the percentage of students scoring in Levels 1, 2, and 3-5 for the District and State by grade level are provided for reading, mathematics, and science in Tables 1, 2, and 3 respectively.

Also presented is a summary of student performance in terms of the more precise Scale Scores (SS) that underlie the performance levels of the FCAT SSS Reading, Mathematics, and Science assessments. In addition, Developmental Scale Scores (DSS) in reading and mathematics represent a continuous scale across grade levels that may be used to track growth in achievement as students progress from Grade 3 through Grade 10. District mean SS and DSS are presented in Tables 4 and 5 for reading and mathematics and in Table 6 for science. Tables 4 and 5 are accompanied by a graphic representation of the mean DSS in 2007, 2008, and 2009.

Table 1
FCAT SSS Reading
District and State 2007, 2008, and 2009
Percentages of Students Scoring in Achievement Levels 1, 2, and 3-5, by Grade

READING	Number Tested			Level 1			Level 2			Levels 3-5					
	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009	Diff. 08-09	2007	2008	2009	Diff. 08-09	2007	2008	2009	Diff. 08-09
GRADE 3															
District	27,812	27,722	27,386	24	21	22	+1	14	13	13	0	63	67	65	-2
State	201,894	204,251	205,135	19	16	17	+1	13	12	12	0	69	72	71	-1
GRADE 4															
District	26,049	25,495	26,034	21	20	17	-3	15	14	14	0	64	65	70	+5
State	196,512	192,761	195,826	18	17	13	-4	14	13	13	0	68	70	74	+4
GRADE 5															
District	25,780	25,974	25,826	17	20	17	-3	17	17	15	-2	66	63	67	+4
State	192,289	195,400	192,410	14	17	14	-3	15	16	14	-2	72	67	71	+4
GRADE 6															
District	26,172	26,043	26,282	24	23	21	-2	21	20	19	-1	55	57	60	+3
State	198,295	193,844	196,587	19	18	16	-2	19	18	17	-1	62	63	66	+3
GRADE 7															
District	23,109	25,896	26,104	21	21	19	-2	20	19	20	+1	59	60	61	+1
State	188,700	197,001	193,336	17	17	15	-2	20	19	18	-1	63	65	67	+2
GRADE 8															
District	26,708	23,012	25,684	29	22	22	0	30	30	30	0	40	49	48	-1
State	199,456	186,421	194,554	22	18	18	0	29	29	28	-1	49	53	54	+1
GRADE 9															
District	28,198	27,626	24,070	37	34	26	-8	30	29	31	+2	33	38	43	+5
State	207,794	205,515	192,968	28	25	22	-3	31	29	31	+2	41	46	47	+1
GRADE 10															
District	25,637	24,492	24,805	47	42	39	-3	26	27	29	+2	27	30	31	+1
State	186,048	185,276	186,464	39	35	34	-1	28	27	30	+3	34	38	37	-1

Note. Achievement Levels range from Level 1 (lowest) to Level 5 (highest). Percentages may not sum to 100 percent due to rounding, and include all students tested, including students with disabilities and English language learners. Only Grade 10 students participating in the standard FCAT SSS administration are included in this summary, not those participating in the FCAT Retake.

Table 2

FCAT SSS Mathematics
District and State 2007, 2008, and 2009
Percentages of Students Scoring in Achievement Levels 1, 2, and 3-5, by Grade

MATHEMATICS	Number Tested			Level 1			Level 2			Levels 3-5					
	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009	Diff. 08-09	2007	2008	2009	Diff. 08-09	2007	2008	2009	Diff. 08-09
GRADE 3															
District	27,810	27,720	27,389	14	11	10	-1	16	14	13	-1	70	75	76	+1
State	201,862	204,180	205,135	12	10	10	0	14	13	13	0	74	76	78	+2
GRADE 4															
District	26,032	25,488	26,039	14	13	11	-2	19	18	16	-2	67	68	73	+5
State	196,632	192,792	195,844	13	12	10	-2	18	18	15	-3	69	71	75	+4
GRADE 5															
District	25,827	26,016	25,826	18	18	17	-1	29	24	25	+1	54	58	59	+1
State	192,369	195,418	192,333	15	15	14	-1	26	24	24	0	59	61	62	+1
GRADE 6															
District	26,173	26,038	26,249	33	31	28	-3	23	22	21	-1	44	47	51	+4
State	198,195	193,758	196,408	28	26	24	-2	22	21	21	0	50	53	55	+2
GRADE 7															
District	23,099	25,869	26,066	23	22	23	+1	22	22	21	-1	55	56	56	0
State	188,619	196,797	193,239	20	18	20	+2	21	21	20	-1	59	61	60	-1
GRADE 8															
District	26,699	22,991	25,669	25	18	17	-1	21	20	23	+3	54	62	60	-2
State	199,297	186,211	194,297	18	14	14	0	19	19	20	+1	63	67	66	-1
GRADE 9															
District	28,103	27,553	24,030	24	20	14	-6	25	22	21	-1	51	58	65	+7
State	207,364	205,001	192,598	17	15	12	-3	22	20	20	0	60	65	68	+3
GRADE 10															
District	25,518	24,429	24,700	19	15	15	0	24	23	20	-3	57	62	65	+3
State	185,346	184,617	185,910	14	12	12	0	20	19	18	-1	65	69	69	0

Note. Achievement Levels range from Level 1 (lowest) to Level 5 (highest). Percentages may not sum to 100 percent due to rounding, and include all students tested, including students with disabilities and English language learners. Only Grade 10 students participating in the standard FCAT SSS administration are included in this summary, not those participating in the FCAT Retake.

Table 3
FCAT SSS Science
District and State 2007, 2008, and 2009
Percentages of Students Scoring in Achievement Levels 1, 2, and 3-5, by Grade

SCIENCE	Number Tested			Level 1			Level 2			Levels 3-5					
	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009	Diff. 08-09	2007	2008	2009	Diff. 08-09	2007	2008	2009	Diff. 08-09
GRADE 5															
District	25,993	25,875	25,801	31	27	26	-1	35	34	32	-2	34	39	42	+3
State	191,789	194,991	191,751	25	23	21	-2	33	33	32	-1	42	43	46	+3
GRADE 8															
District	26,580	22,885	25,555	41	32	34	+2	30	33	32	-1	29	35	34	-1
State	197,536	184,828	193,018	31	27	27	0	31	33	32	-1	38	40	41	+1
GRADE 11															
District	22,136	22,079	21,764	42	38	40	+2	32	33	31	-2	26	29	29	0
State	164,580	165,456	167,041	30	29	31	+2	33	33	32	-1	37	38	37	-1

Note. Achievement Levels range from Level 1 (lowest) to Level 5 (highest). Percentages may not sum to 100 percent due to rounding, and include all students tested, including students with disabilities and English language learners.

Table 4
FCAT SSS Reading
District Results 2007, 2008, and 2009
Mean Scale Scores and Developmental Scale Scores, by Grade

Grade / Year	Mean Scale Score (100 - 500)			Mean Developmental Scale Score (0 - 3000)		
	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009
3	299	303	302	1294	1320	1313
4	311	313	317	1532	1545	1566
5	302	299	305	1602	1588	1624
6	297	300	304	1629	1650	1668
7	306	307	309	1752	1754	1769
8	292	304	305	1799	1859	1864
9	296	301	311	1834	1863	1915
10	288	294	298	1860	1892	1914

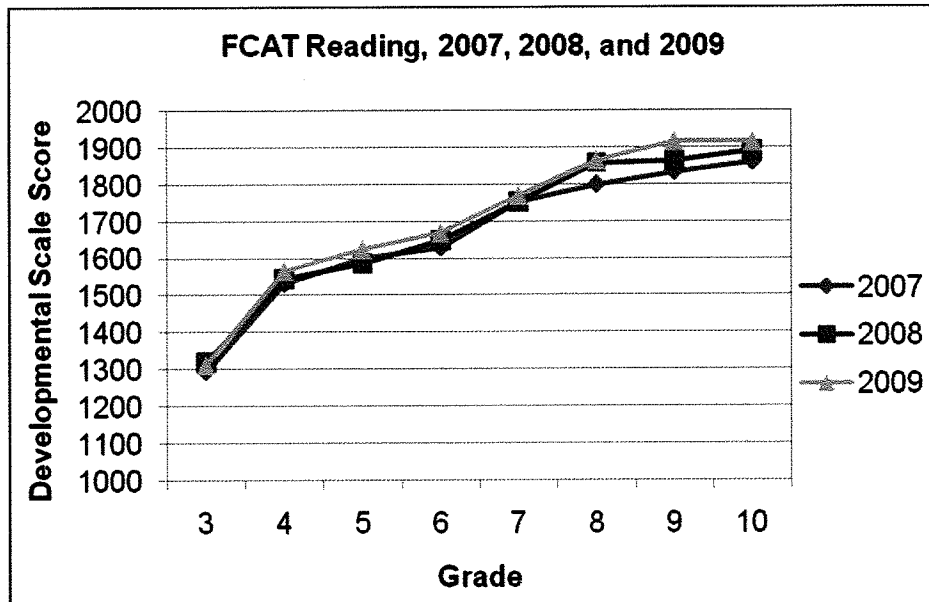


Figure 1. Mean Developmental Scale Scores on FCAT Reading for Miami-Dade County Public School students in 2007, 2008, and 2009.

Table 5
FCAT SSS Mathematics
District Results 2007, 2008, and 2009
Mean Scale Scores and Developmental Scale Scores, by Grade

Grade / Year	Mean Scale Score (100 - 500)			Mean Developmental Scale Score (0 - 3000)		
	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009
3	322	331	335	1401	1443	1460
4	316	321	327	1528	1547	1575
5	326	329	331	1637	1652	1660
6	298	304	310	1623	1649	1674
7	305	309	307	1785	1799	1794
8	307	319	316	1842	1890	1877
9	290	299	308	1882	1912	1944
10	315	320	322	1948	1973	1980

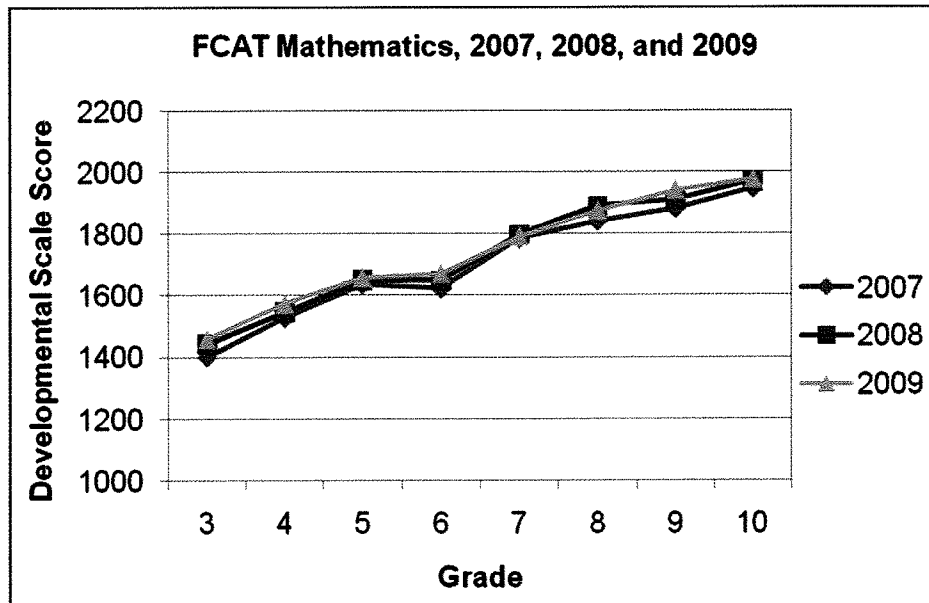


Figure 2. Mean Developmental Scale Scores on FCAT Mathematics for Miami-Dade County Public School students in 2007, 2008, and 2009.

Table 6
FCAT SSS Science
District Results 2007, 2008, and 2009
Mean Scale Scores, by Grade

Grade / Year	Mean Scale Score (100 - 500)		
	2007	2008	2009
5	295	303	306
8	280	295	292
11	286	292	290

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 2009, 24,805 Grade 10 students took the FCAT SSS Reading test and 24,700 took the FCAT SSS 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 7
Grade 10 FCAT SSS Reading and Mathematics
District and State 2007, 2008, and 2009
Percentages of Students Meeting Graduation Requirements on the First Attempt

GRADE 10	PERCENT PASSING			
	2007	2008	2009	Difference 2008-2009
READING				
District	44%	49%	51%	+2
State	52%	57%	57%	0
MATHEMATICS				
District	71%	76%	78%	+2
State	78%	81%	81%	0