


MEMORANDUM

April 30, 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) WRITING: GRADES 4, 8, AND 10

Today the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) released results from the Spring 2009 Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) Writing, administered to students in Grades 4, 8, and 10. The FCAT Writing reports released today provide summary data based on the scores of all students tested; **these results do not reflect the groupings that will be used by the State for accountability purposes.**

The format of FCAT Writing has changed in 2009, returning to an essay only format after the inclusion of multiple choice items in 2006 through 2008. As such, just the essay rubric scores, which can range from 1 to 6, are reported in 2009.

Over 77,000 Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) students in Grades 4, 8, and 10 participated in the Spring 2009 FCAT Writing assessment. Overall, M-DCPS students' performance on the FCAT Writing assessment was comparable to that in 2008. The mean essay scores at all grades remained stable, and there were slight increases in the percentage of students scoring high in Grades 4 and 8. M-DCPS' high scoring trends closely parallel those of students statewide despite the disproportionate number of low income students and English language learners in the District. Almost 60 percent of M-DCPS' students are low income compared to 46 percent statewide and over 15 percent of M-DCPS' students are English language learners compared to 9 percent statewide. Highlights of the results and District summary tables are attached.

Complete District, State, and school level summary reports are available online at: <http://oada.dadeschools.net/FCAT/FCAT.asp>. Printed individual student reports for the Spring 2009 FCAT Writing assessment will be provided to schools as soon as they are received in the District; all other reports will only be available in electronic format. The individual student reports should be distributed to parents as soon as they are available. Additional reports of FCAT results will be released as they become available in the next few weeks. School performance grades are expected 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
M1006

Attachments

cc: School Board Attorney
Superintendent's Senior Staff

**Highlights of the Florida Department of Education's
Spring 2009 Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) Summary Report
Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS)
Grades 4, 8, and 10 FCAT Writing**

- The percentages of M-DCPS 4th and 8th Grade students who scored 4.0 or above on the FCAT Writing assessment increased steadily each year from 2007 to 2009.
 - The percentages of the 4th and 8th Grade students who scored 3.5 or above also increased or remained stable.
- The percentage of M-DCPS 10th Grade students who scored high (3.5 or 4.0) decreased slightly from 2008 to 2009, paralleling State trends.
- Changes in the percentages of M-DCPS students scoring high on the FCAT Writing assessment are comparable to those of students statewide.
- The mean essay scores on FCAT Writing remained stable for M-DCPS students at each tested grade (Grades 4, 3.9; Grade 8, 4.2; and Grade 10, 3.8).
 - In Grade 4, M-DCPS students' mean essay scores on the expository prompt increased, from 3.8 in 2008 to 4.0 in 2009, and the mean score for the narrative prompt remained stable at 3.9.
 - For students in Grades 8 and 10, the 2009 mean essay scores did not differ across prompt types, 4.2 for both the expository and persuasive prompts in Grade 8, and 3.8 for both the expository and persuasive prompts in Grade 10.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Summary of District and State Results for the
Spring 2009 Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT)
Grades 4, 8, and 10 FCAT Writing

On April 30, 2009, the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) released State and District summary data from the Spring 2009 administration of the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) Writing assessment. The summary data include results for all students tested in Grades 4, 8, and 10.

District Spring 2009 FCAT Writing results are based on the following numbers of students tested: 25,947 in Grade 4, 25,240 in Grade 8, and 26,171 in Grade 10, for a total of 77,358. These figures include students from all curriculum groups and do not represent the groupings that will be used by the State for accountability purposes.

In Spring 2009, the FLDOE discontinued the inclusion of a multiple choice portion which was part of the FCAT Writing+ assessment in 2006 through 2008. As such, reported scores for the Spring 2009 FCAT Writing include only a traditional "rubric" score for the essay portion. These scores can range from 1 low to 6 high.

The table that follows summarizes 2009 FCAT Writing results for the State and District. The percentages of students scoring 3.5 and above and 4.0 and above are presented for 2007, 2008, and 2009.

FCAT Writing
State and District, 2007, 2008, and 2009
Percentages of Students Scoring 3.5 and Above and 4.0 and Above
on the Essay Portion

		STATE			DISTRICT		
		2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009
Grade 4	≥3.5	78%	77%	85%	82%	82%	84%
	≥4.0	64%	63%	73%	68%	69%	72%
Grade 8	≥3.5	86%	88%	90%	84%	88%	88%
	≥4.0	74%	78%	80%	72%	77%	79%
Grade 10	≥3.5	79%	78%	77%	77%	77%	76%
	≥4.0	64%	62%	60%	61%	59%	58%

Note: Results include all students tested, including students with disabilities and English language learners.