

**MEMORANDUM**

May 21, 2009

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

**FROM:** Alberto M. Carvalho, Superintendent of Schools *AMC:ms*

**SUBJECT: STATE RELEASE OF RESULTS FOR THE SPRING 2009 FLORIDA COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT TEST (FCAT): GRADE 3**

Today the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) released results from the Spring 2009 administration of the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) for students in Grade 3. The State has released these results in advance of the other grade levels to facilitate promotion decisions that require consideration of FCAT results. Despite the discontinuation of the FCAT Norm Referenced Test (NRT), Grade 3 students who score in Level 1 on the FCAT SSS in reading will have multiple opportunities to demonstrate reading mastery, as required for promotion to grade 4. The Grade 3 Reading Student Portfolio may be used to demonstrate mastery. In addition, an alternative standardized reading assessment will be given in the last two weeks of the school year and another at the end of summer reading camp.

In Miami-Dade County Public Schools, 27,389 students in Grade 3 participated in the Spring 2009 FCAT administration. Overall, 76% of the District's third grade students scored high (Levels 3 and above) in mathematics, and 65% in reading. Very slight changes from 2008 to 2009 were seen in the percentages scoring in each achievement level across the State and District. In addition, achievement improved substantially in both reading and mathematics for third grade students in the two M-DCPS elementary schools (Holmes Elementary and Liberty City Elementary) identified for intensive District intervention as part of the State's Differentiated Accountability system. Highlights of third grade students' results and a table summarizing District and State results are provided as attachments to this memorandum.

Note that these summary scores include all students tested, and do not represent the groupings that will be used by the State for accountability purposes. Results for other grade levels are scheduled to be released by June 2009; they will be released as they become available. School performance grades are expected in mid-July. Complete District, State, and school summary reports are available online at: <http://oada.dadeschools.net/FCAT/FCAT.asp>. School shipments of individual student reports for the Grade 3 FCAT SSS will be forwarded to schools as they are received.

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:mc  
M1022

Attachments

cc: School Board Attorney  
Superintendent's Senior Staff

**Highlights of the Florida Department of Education's  
Spring 2009 Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test Summary Report  
Miami-Dade County Public Schools  
Grade 3**

- At both the District and State levels, third grade students' achievement on the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) remained relatively constant from 2008 to 2009\*.
  
- Overall, 76 percent of the third grade students in Miami-Dade County scored in Levels 3 and above in mathematics on the Spring 2009 FCAT.
  - This represents a slight increase\* in the percentage scoring high (Levels 3 and above), with a corresponding decrease in the percentages scoring in both Levels 1 and 2.
  
  - Mathematics achievement improved substantially for third grade students in the two M-DCPS elementary schools (Holmes Elementary and Liberty City Elementary) identified for intensive District intervention as part of the State's Differentiated Accountability system.
  
- The percentage of students scoring in Levels 3 and above in reading decreased slightly for both the State and District\*.
  - Overall, 65 percent of the District's third grade students scored Levels 3 and above in reading, with 22 percent scoring in Level 1 and 13 percent in Level 2.
  
  - In reading, the percentages scoring high increased appreciably at Holmes Elementary and Liberty City Elementary, with corresponding decreases in the percentages of students scoring in Level 1, and considered for retention under the State's mandatory retention policy.

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\* It should be noted that slight differences in percentages from 2008 to 2009 may largely be attributable to mathematical rounding.

**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**Summary of District and State Results for the**  
**Spring 2009 Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test**  
**Grade 3**

On May 21, 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) for students in Grade 3. The State has released these results in advance of the other grade levels to facilitate promotion decisions.

This assessment 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. The percentages of third grade students scoring in achievement levels 1, 2, and 3-5 in the State and District are presented in Table 1.

Note that these summary results 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. They also include both students enrolled in Grade 3 for the first time and previously retained third grade students.

**Table 1**  
**Grade 3: FCAT SSS Reading and Mathematics**  
**State and District, 2007, 2008, and 2009**  
**Percentages Scoring in Achievement Levels 1, 2, and 3-5**

|                       | DISTRICT             |        |        |                          | STATE                |         |         |                          |
|-----------------------|----------------------|--------|--------|--------------------------|----------------------|---------|---------|--------------------------|
|                       | Percent ALL Students |        |        | Difference<br>2008- 2009 | Percent ALL Students |         |         | Difference<br>2008- 2009 |
|                       | 2007                 | 2008   | 2009   |                          | 2007                 | 2008    | 2009    |                          |
| <b>READING</b>        |                      |        |        |                          |                      |         |         |                          |
| <i>Number tested:</i> | 27,812               | 27,722 | 27,386 |                          | 201,894              | 204,251 | 205,135 |                          |
| Level 1               | 24                   | 21     | 22     | +1                       | 19                   | 16      | 17      | +1                       |
| Level 2               | 14                   | 13     | 13     | 0                        | 13                   | 12      | 12      | 0                        |
| Levels 3-5            | 63                   | 67     | 65     | -2                       | 69                   | 72      | 71      | -1                       |
| <b>MATHEMATICS</b>    |                      |        |        |                          |                      |         |         |                          |
| <i>Number tested:</i> | 27,810               | 27,720 | 27,389 |                          | 201,862              | 204,180 | 205,135 |                          |
| Level 1               | 14                   | 11     | 10     | -1                       | 12                   | 10      | 10      | 0                        |
| Level 2               | 16                   | 14     | 13     | -1                       | 14                   | 13      | 13      | 0                        |
| Level 3-5             | 70                   | 75     | 76     | +1                       | 74                   | 76      | 78      | +2                       |

*Note:* Percentages may not sum to 100 percent due to mathematical rounding, and include all students tested, including students with disabilities and English language learners.