

MEMORANDUM

May 20, 2010

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

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

SUBJECT: STATE RELEASE OF RESULTS FOR THE SPRING 2010 FLORIDA COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT TEST (FCAT): GRADES 11 - 12 RETAKE

Late yesterday, the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) released results from the Spring 2010 administration of the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) Retake. Specifically, District and school 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 2010 administration because they had 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.

In Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS), 13,031 students in Grades 11 and 12 participated in the reading part of the graduation test and 5,416 participated in the mathematics part of the graduation test. Combined across Grades 11 and 12, 2,352, or 18% of those taking the reading assessment, and 1,723 or 32% of those taking the mathematics assessment, achieved passing scores. Overall, the percentages of M-DCPS students who passed the Mathematics assessment during this administration increased for the last two years with a small decline in reading. Summary reports and tables with District and State results are provided as attachments.

Results for FCAT Writing, for students in Grades 4, 8, and 10, and for FCAT Reading, Mathematics, and Science for students in Grades 3-11 will be released on a staggered schedule between now and June.

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 FCAT Retake will be forwarded to schools as they are received. Additional reports of FCAT results will be released as they become available.

Should you have any questions about the attached Retake 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.

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Attachments

cc: School Board Attorney
Superintendent's Cabinet
Superintendent's Senior Staff

**Highlights of the Florida Department of Education's
Spring 2010 Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) Summary Report
Miami-Dade County Public Schools
Grades 11 – 12 FCAT Retake**

Overall

- Generally, the percentages of the District's students passing the FCAT Retake in Mathematics increased over previous years, while the percentages in Reading remained higher than in 2008, but decreased from 2009.

Mathematics

- The number of students participating in the Spring administration of the FCAT Mathematics Retake remained relatively stable from 2009 to 2010.
- In Mathematics, the passing rates for participating M-DCPS 11th and 12th grade students increased over the rates in 2008 and 2009.
 - In the MDCPS, 35% of the 11th graders and 25% of the 12th graders passed the FCAT Retake in Mathematics.

Reading

- Fewer 11th and 12th grade students participated in the Spring administration of the FCAT Reading Retake in 2010 than in previous years.
- In Reading, the passing rates for participating 11th and 12th grade students in 2010 declined from the rates seen in 2009 at both the State and District levels; however, the District did show a gain over the 2008 passing rates at both grade levels.

**Summary of District and State Results for the
Spring 2010 Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT)
Grades 11 and 12 FCAT Retake**

On May 19, 2010, the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) released State and District summary data from the Spring 2010 administration of the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) Retake. The initial summary data include FCAT Retake graduation examination 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 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 assessment program. Students who participate in FCAT Retake administrations represent a small proportion of the population; they 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, a FCAT Retake administration is offered in the fall. Prior to the 2008-2009 school year, the FCAT Retake administration was also offered in the summer; however, the summer administration has been indefinitely suspended.

In Spring 2010, the FLDOE offered schools the option of administering the FCAT Retake via computer. Only three locations participated in the computer-based testing (CBT) of students in grades 11 and 12, for a total of 98 students who took the CBT reading assessment and 40 students who took the mathematics assessment. The three locations are: Somerset Academy Charter School, Young Women's Preparatory Academy, and Mater Academy Charter High. The scores for these students are included in these summary results.

The Spring 2010 FCAT administration was the last opportunity for current Grade 12 students to pass the FCAT Retake prior to their scheduled graduation. 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 need to take only the test(s) (reading, mathematics, or both) they have not yet passed. The number tested in reading and in mathematics cannot be added to represent the total number tested, as some students took both tests while others needed to take only 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 a result, 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 a score of 300 on both the reading test and the mathematics test 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 2008 through 2010. 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, 2008, 2009, and 2010
Number Tested, Percent of Enrolled Students Tested, 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	2008	8,780	36	17%	55,593	29	22%
	2009	8,635	35	24%	53,718	28	27%
	2010	8,402	33	20%	52,875	27	23%
Grade 12	2008	5,023	22	12%	24,069	15	16%
	2009	4,874	21	18%	22,925	14	20%
	2010	4,629	20	14%	22,071	13	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, 2008, 2009, and 2010
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	2008	4,282	17	33%	25,257	13	39%
	2009	3,520	14	31%	21,907	12	33%
	2010	3,567	14	35%	22,617	12	37%
Grade 12	2008	2,197	10	24%	9,971	6	32%
	2009	1,927	8	22%	8,540	5	26%
	2010	1,849	8	25%	8,565	5	28%

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