

MEMORANDUM

May 26, 2011

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 2011 FLORIDA COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT TEST (FCAT) 2.0 - GRADE 3

Today the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) released results for Grade 3 students from the Spring 2011 administration of the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) 2.0 Reading and Mathematics. The State has released these results in advance of the other grade levels to facilitate promotion decisions that require consideration of FCAT results. As required for promotion to Grade 4, current Grade 3 students who scored in Level 1 on the FCAT 2.0 in Reading will have additional opportunities to demonstrate reading mastery, including the Grade 3 Reading Student Portfolio, and alternative standardized reading assessments administered in the last two weeks of the school year and at the end of summer reading camp.

Student results for the Spring 2011 FCAT 2.0 Reading and Mathematics assessments for Grade 3 are reported on the existing FCAT scale as FCAT Equivalent Developmental Scale Scores because the new scale and achievement levels will not be available in 2010-11. These equated scores are a temporary measure, designed to enable consistent student expectations to be maintained during this transition year. However, the equated scores **do not account for differences in the test content** resulting from the transition from the state's original Sunshine State Standards to the **new, more rigorous Next Generation Sunshine State Standards**. A new FCAT 2.0 scale will be established this fall, with new achievement levels that will be used in subsequent years. When the new FCAT 2.0 scores are established, those scores will become the new baseline for school accountability and the current distributions of students within achievement levels may change.

In addition to the FCAT Equivalent Developmental Scale Scores, results are also reported in terms of achievement levels, which can range from Level 1 (low) to Level 5 (high). The percentages of third grade students scoring in achievement levels 1, 2, and 3 through 5 in the State and District are presented in Table 1.

In Miami-Dade County Public Schools, more than 27,000 students in Grade 3 participated in the Spring 2011 FCAT 2.0 administration. Overall, third grade students' scores remained relatively stable from 2010 to 2011, paralleling those of the state, with 78 percent of the District's third grade students scoring high (Levels 3 and above) in Mathematics, and 67 percent in Reading. 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 FCAT 2.0 Reading and Mathematics in all other grade levels and FCAT Science in Grades 5, 8, and 11 are scheduled to be released in early June. Reports will be released as they become available.

Complete State, District, and school summary reports will be posted as they become available on the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) website at <http://fcat.fldoe.org>. School shipments of individual student reports for Grade 3 FCAT 2.0 Reading and Mathematics 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.

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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 2011 Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test 2.0 Summary Report
Miami-Dade County Public Schools
Grade 3**

- Overall, M-DCPS third grade students' scores on the new FCAT 2.0 remained relatively stable from 2010 to 2011.
 - In 2011, 78 percent of the District's third grade students scored high (Levels 3 and above) in Mathematics, the same percentage as in 2010.
 - In Reading, 79 percent met the passing score (Levels 2 and above) for promotion to Grade 4, while 67 percent scored in Levels 3 through 5 in 2011.
- The percentage of M-DCPS students scoring 3 and above on the new FCAT 2.0 Mathematics test equaled that of students statewide.
- Statewide, the percentages of Grade 3 students' scoring in Levels 1, 2, and 3 through 5 remained the same from the administration of FCAT in 2010 to the administration of FCAT 2.0 in 2011.
- Performance in the tri-county area varied somewhat as shown in Table 2.
 - In Broward County, results mirrored those in Miami-Dade, generally holding steady in both Reading and Mathematics from 2010 to 2011.
 - In Palm Beach, the percentage of third grade students scoring high decreased in Mathematics by four percentage points, while a slight increase was seen in Reading.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Summary of State and District Results for the
Spring 2011 Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test 2.0
Grade 3

On May 26, 2011, the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) released State and District summary data from the Spring 2011 administration of the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) 2.0 for students in Grade 3. The State has released these results in advance of the other grade levels to facilitate promotion decisions.

This year, the Florida Department of Education transitioned from FCAT to FCAT 2.0 in Reading and Mathematics to align with new academic content standards. As such, this criterion-referenced test measures students' mastery of grade-level content, as specified by the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards (NGSSS). The FCAT 2.0 Reading and Mathematics tests have been administered for the first time in Spring 2011, to be followed by FCAT 2.0 Science in Spring 2012. For this administration, FCAT 2.0 results are being reported on the existing FCAT scale as FCAT Equivalent Developmental Scale Scores (which can range from 86 to 3008 across grades 3 through 10). In addition, FCAT Levels 1 through 5 are being reported based on the original FCAT scale; however, content area scores are being reported as the actual number of raw score points earned out of the number of points possible for each reporting category.

A new FCAT 2.0 scale will be established this fall, with new ranges for achievement levels that will be used in subsequent years. When the new FCAT 2.0 scores are established, the scores will become the new baseline for school accountability, and the current distributions of students within achievement levels may be adjusted.

Note that these summary results are based on all students tested, including Students with Disabilities (SWD) and English language learners (ELL). They 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 2.0 Reading and Mathematics
Percentages Scoring in Achievement Levels 1, 2, and 3-5
State and District, 2009, 2010, and 2011

	DISTRICT				STATE			
	Percent ALL Students			Difference 2010- 2011	Percent ALL Students			Difference 2010- 2011
	2009	2010	2011		2009	2010	2011	
READING								
<i>Number tested:</i>	27,386	27,217	27,217		205,135	205,639	202,686	
Level 1	22	20	21	+1	17	16	16	0
Level 2	13	12	12	0	12	12	12	0
Levels 3-5	65	68	67	-1	71	72	72	0
MATHEMATICS								
<i>Number tested:</i>	27,389	27,230	27,237		205,135	205,720	202,719	
Level 1	10	9	9	0	10	9	9	0
Level 2	13	13	13	0	13	13	13	0
Level 3-5	76	78	78	0	78	78	78	0

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.

Table 2
Grade 3 FCAT 2.0 Reading and Mathematics
Percentages of Students Scoring in Achievement Levels 1, 2, and 3 - 5
Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach, 2010 and 2011

	Miami-Dade			Broward			Palm Beach		
	Percent ALL Students		Difference 2010- 2011	Percent ALL Students		Difference 2010- 2011	Percent ALL Students		Difference 2010- 2011
	2010	2011		2010	2011		2010	2011	
READING									
<i>Number tested</i>	27,217	27,217		19,704	19,501		13,430	13,363	
Level 1	20	21	+1	16	17	+1	19	18	-1
Level 2	12	12	0	12	12	0	12	12	0
Level 3-5	68	67	-1	72	71	-1	68	70	+2
MATHEMATICS									
<i>Number tested</i>	27,230	27,237		19,708	19,497		13,428	13,356	
Level 1	9	9	0	8	8	0	8	11	+3
Level 2	13	13	0	11	12	+1	13	14	+1
Level 3-5	78	78	0	80	80	0	79	75	-4