


**MEMORANDUM**

**May 12, 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): GRADES 11 - 12 RETAKE**

Today the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) released results from the Spring 2011 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 who participated in this 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.

For the first time, the FCAT Retake Mathematics assessment was administered as a computer-based test (CBT) for all students except those unable to take the test on a computer, with applicable accommodations documented on a current Individual Education Plan (IEP) or Section 504 Plan. Schools also had the option of administering the FCAT Retake Reading assessment as a CBT, and ten M-DCPS senior high schools chose to do so.

In Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS), 10,149 students in Grades 11 and 12 participated in the reading part of the graduation test and 3,806 participated in the mathematics part of the graduation test. Combined across Grades 11 and 12, 1,607, or 16% of those taking the reading assessment, and 819 or 22% of those taking the mathematics assessment, achieved passing scores. The number of students participating in the Retake assessment in Spring 2011 decreased significantly from prior years, likely due to changes in legislation regarding the use of concordant scores on the College Board SAT or ACT to meet graduation requirements. While the percent of students passing this administration also declined, the application of concordant scores would result in only the most struggling students taking the FCAT Retake multiple times. Summary reports and tables with District and State results for students in Grades 11 and 12 are provided as attachments.

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. Results for FCAT / FCAT 2.0 Reading, Mathematics, and Science for students in Grades 3-11 will be released on a staggered schedule between now and June.

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 2011 Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) Summary Report  
Miami-Dade County Public Schools  
Grades 11 – 12 FCAT Retake**

**Overall**

- The number of students participating in the FCAT Retake Reading and Mathematics assessments in Spring 2011 decreased significantly from prior years, likely due to recent legislation allowing the use of concordant scores on the College Board SAT or ACT to meet graduation requirements after taking only the Grade 10 FCAT Reading and Mathematics, rather than requiring students who fail the Grade 10 graduation tests to take the Retake form multiple times prior to the application of passing concordant scores.
  - While the percentages of students passing the Spring 2011 administration also declined, the application of concordant scores would result in only the most struggling students taking the FCAT Retake multiple times.
- In addition, the state has instituted new procedures for invalidation of student results to detect “improbable levels of similarity, gains, and/or erasures.” Reading results for 346 M-DCPS students (3 percent of the participants) and mathematics results for 80 M-DCPS students (0.6 percent) have been held, pending investigation and possible appeals.

**Reading**

- The number of M-DCPS Grade 11 and 12 students taking the FCAT Retake Reading dropped by 22 percent from 13,031 in 2010 to only 10,149 in 2011.
- The passing rates for M-DCPS students taking the FCAT Retake Reading dropped slightly, with 18 percent of the Grade 11 participants passing, along with 13 percent of the Grade 12 participants.
  - Statewide, passing rates on FCAT Retake Reading also declined slightly for students in Grades 11 and 12.

**Mathematics**

- In addition, 30 percent fewer Grade 11 and 12 M-DCPS students took the FCAT Retake Mathematics in 2011 than in 2010, dropping from 5,416 in 2010 to only 3,806 in 2011.
- The passing rates for M-DCPS students taking the FCAT Retake Mathematics dropped substantially, from 35 percent of the Grade 11 participants passing in 2010 to only 25 percent in 2011, and from 25 percent of the Grade 12 participants passing in 2010 to only 16 percent in 2011, paralleling statewide trends.
  - The FCAT Retake Mathematics was administered as a computer-based test (CBT) for the first time in Spring 2011 to all students except those with appropriate accommodations listed on an Individual Educational Plan (IEP) or Section 504 Plan.
    - Although the computer administration in the M-DCPS did not experience significant implementation issues, it is not known to what extent the computer-based administration mode may have impacted the results of FCAT Retake Mathematics.

**Summary of District and State Results for the  
Spring 2011 Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT)  
Grades 11 and 12 FCAT Retake**

On May 12, 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) Retake. The initial summary data include FCAT Retake graduation examination results for students in Grades 11 and 12.

High school students must pass FCAT Reading and Mathematics 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 2011, the FLDOE required all schools to administer FCAT Retake Mathematics on the computer. All eligible students took the computer-based test (CBT) with the exception of students with disabilities who were unable to test on the computer and had appropriate accommodations documented on a current Individual Educational Plan (IEP) or Section 504 Plan. In addition, the FLDOE also offered schools the option of administering FCAT Retake Reading via computer. Ten senior high schools opted to do so: Corporate Academy North (8161), Homestead Senior High School (7151), iPreparatory Academy (7581), Life Skills Center of Miami-Dade (7015), Mavericks High of North Miami-Dade (7062), Mavericks High of South Miami-Dade (7065), Miami Central Senior High School (7251), William H. Turner Technical Arts Senior High School (7601), YMAACD @ MacArthur North Senior High School (7254), and YMAACD @ MacArthur South Senior High School (7631). The scores for all students participating in either CBT or paper-based administrations are included in these summary results.

The Spring 2011 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. Also, in the 2010-11 school year, students were permitted to apply concordant scores earned on the College Board SAT or ACT exams to meet the high school graduation test requirement, without having to take the FCAT graduation test three times, as was the case in past years. 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 2009 through 2011. 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, 2009, 2010, and 2011**  
**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	2009	8,635	35	24%	53,718	28	27%
	2010	8,402	33	20%	52,875	27	23%
	2011	5,743	25	18%	42,294	23	22%
Grade 12	2009	4,874	21	18%	22,925	14	20%
	2010	4,629	20	14%	22,071	13	16%
	2011	4,406	18	13%	22,336	13	15%

\* 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, 2009, 2010, and 2011**  
**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	2009	3,520	14	31%	21,907	12	33%
	2010	3,567	14	35%	22,617	12	37%
	2011	2,337	10	25%	17,695	9	29%
Grade 12	2009	1,927	8	22%	8,540	5	26%
	2010	1,849	8	25%	8,565	5	28%
	2011	1,469	6	16%	7,084	4	21%

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