


## MEMORANDUM

June 6, 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 / FCAT 2.0) READING, MATHEMATICS, AND SCIENCE ASSESSMENTS**

Today the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) released results from the Spring 2011 administration of the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT / FCAT 2.0) Reading, Mathematics, and Science assessments. Specifically, District and School Summary Reports were provided for students in Reading, Grades 4 through 10; Mathematics, Grades 4 through 8; and Science, Grades 5, 8, and 11. Although scores for students in Grade 3 were released previously to facilitate promotion decisions, they are included in this memorandum to provide a comprehensive summary of District results. It should be noted that the results released include **all students tested and do not represent the groupings that will be used by the State for accountability purposes.**

Student results for the new FCAT 2.0 Reading in Grades 3 through 10 and Mathematics in Grades 3 through 8 are reported as equated FCAT Equivalent Developmental Scale Scores (EDSS) because the new FCAT 2.0 scale and achievement levels will not be available in 2010-11. However, student results for the FCAT Mathematics in Grade 10 and FCAT Science in Grades 5, 8, and 11 are reported using the traditional FCAT scale and achievement levels.

Overall, more than 230,000 students in Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) participated in the Spring 2011 FCAT / FCAT 2.0 administration. Highlights of the M-DCPS students' results and summary tables providing comparisons of State and District outcomes by grade level are provided as attachments to this memorandum, including:

- M-DCPS' growth from 2010 to 2011 surpassed the State and neighboring districts in Reading and Science.
- M-DCPS students' FCAT Science scores improved markedly, outpacing growth statewide at all three grade levels tested.
- The first administration of the computer-based FCAT Mathematics graduation test in 2011 resulted in fewer M-DCPS students achieving passing scores than in 2010. However, the percentage passing did not drop to the level in 2009.

Complete District, State, and school summary reports will be posted as they become available on the FLDOE website at <http://fcat.fldoe.org/mediapacket/2011/default.asp>. In addition, an interactive database will be available at <http://fcat.fldoe.org/results/default.asp>. Information about the transition to FCAT 2.0 and how it may impact students statewide may be found at <http://fcat.fldoe.org/>, with additional information on the scoring process in

*Understanding FCAT 2.0 Reports* at <http://fcap.fldoe.org/fcat2/pdf/11ufrfinal.pdf>. School shipments of Individual Student Reports will be forwarded to schools for distribution to parents.

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 Summary Report for Miami-Dade County  
Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT / FCAT 2.0)  
Reading, Mathematics, and Science  
Grades 3 through 11**

## **OVERALL**

- The results were mixed for M-DCPS students during this transitional year of FCAT.
  - M-DCPS' growth from 2010 to 2011 surpassed the state and neighboring districts in Reading and Science.
  - M-DCPS students' FCAT Science scores improved markedly, outpacing growth statewide at all three grade levels tested.
  - The percentages of M-DCPS students scoring high on the new FCAT 2.0 Reading in 2011 were comparable to those seen in 2010 across all grade levels, paralleling statewide results.
  - Results in Mathematics were less consistent in comparison to the State, with higher percentages of M-DCPS students scoring high in Grades 4, 5, and 8, and somewhat lower percentages in Grades 6 and 7.
- The first administration of the computer-based FCAT Mathematics graduation test in 2011 resulted in fewer M-DCPS students achieving passing scores than in 2010. However, the percentage passing did not drop below the percentage of students who passed in 2009. (Table 7)

## **READING**

- In Reading, the percentages of M-DCPS students scoring in Levels 3 and above held relatively constant from 2010 to 2011. These scores reflect equated scores - signaling the transition from FCAT and the state's original Sunshine State Standards to the new FCAT 2.0, designed to measure the state's Next Generation Sunshine State Standards.
- The percentage of M-DCPS students passing the Grade 10 Reading graduation test increased by one point, even with the transition to the new FCAT 2.0.

## **MATHEMATICS**

- In Grades 3 – 8, where students were administered the new FCAT 2.0, the percentages of M-DCPS students scoring in Levels 3 and above varied from grade to grade, with increases in Grades 4, 5, and 8, and slight decreases in Grades 6 and 7.
- In addition to fewer Grade 10 students achieving passing scores on the Grade 10 FCAT Mathematics test, fewer received high scores (Levels 3 – 5) in 2011 than in 2010.
  - The Grade 10 Mathematics test did not transition to the new standards in 2011, but for the first time it was administered to all students as a computer-based assessment.

## **SCIENCE**

- M-DCPS students' FCAT Science scores increased substantially, with the percentage of students scoring high (Levels 3 and above) increasing 5 points in Grade 5, and 7 points in both Grades 8 and 11 from 2010 to 2011.
- M-DCPS students' increases on FCAT Science outpaced State averages and those in Broward and Palm Beach Counties. (Table 8)

**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**Summary of District and State Results for the**  
**Spring 2011 Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT / FCAT 2.0)**  
**Reading, Mathematics, and Science**  
**Grades 3 through 11**

On June 6, 2011, the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) released data from the Spring 2011 administration of the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT / FCAT 2.0) Reading, Mathematics, and Science. The tables that follow provide summaries of the data for students in Grades 3 through 10 in Reading; Grades 3 through 8 in Mathematics; and Grades 5, 8, and 11 in Science.

This year, the FLDOE transitioned from FCAT to FCAT 2.0 in Reading and Mathematics to align with new academic content standards. Specifically, the FCAT 2.0 Reading was administered for the first time in Spring 2011 to students in Grades 3 through 10; and FCAT 2.0 Mathematics was administered to students in Grades 3 through 8. Note that Grade 9 students did not participate in a comprehensive FCAT Mathematics assessment this year. This is due to Florida's transition to high school End-of-Course Assessments in mathematics and science, beginning with Algebra 1 in 2010-11. Nonetheless, Grade 10 students were still administered the traditional comprehensive FCAT Mathematics assessment this year to serve as the high school graduation test requirement.

The FCAT 2.0 is a criterion-referenced test that measures students' mastery of grade-level content, as specified by the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards (NGSSS). For this administration, FCAT 2.0 results for Reading and Mathematics are being reported on the existing FCAT scale as FCAT Equivalent Developmental Scale Scores (EDSS), which can range from 86 to 3008 across Grades 3 through 10. In addition, FCAT Scale Scores (SS) and Achievement 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.

The EDSS are a temporary measure, designed to enable consistent student expectations to be maintained during this transitional year. However, the equated scores in Reading and Mathematics **do not account for differences in 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.

It is important to note that FCAT Science is being reported in the existing FCAT scale. The FCAT 2.0 Science will be administered for the first time to students in grades 5 and 8 in Spring 2012.

**Section I: READING, MATHEMATICS, AND SCIENCE RESULTS**

Spring 2011 FCAT / FCAT 2.0 results are based on the following numbers of students tested in the M-DCPS: Reading, 210,805 in Grades 3 through 10; Mathematics, 183,664 in Grades 3 through 8; and Science, 73,573 in Grades 5, 8, and 11. The following tables provide a view of student performance across three years: 2009, 2010, and 2011. Detailed results showing the percentage of students scoring in Levels 1, 2, and 3 through 5 for the District and State by grade level are provided for Reading, Mathematics, and Science in Tables 1, 2, and 3 respectively.

Also presented is a summary of student performance in terms of the Scale Scores (SS and ESS for FCAT 2.0) that underlie the performance levels of the FCAT / FCAT 2.0 Reading, Mathematics, and Science assessments. In addition, Developmental Scale Scores (DSS) for 2009 and 2010 and EDSS for 2011 in Reading and Mathematics represent a continuous scale across grade levels that may be used to track growth in achievement as students' progress from Grade 3 through Grade 10. District mean DSS/EDSS scores are presented in Tables 4 and 5 for reading and mathematics, and mean SS only in Table 6 for science. Tables 4 and 5 are accompanied by graphic representations of the mean DSS/EDSS in Reading and Mathematics for 2009, 2010, and 2011. Table 8 presents a comparison of growth across districts.

Note that the summary results presented 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.

## **Section II: GRADE 10 FCAT / FCAT 2.0 GRADUATION TEST PASSING RATES**

High school students must pass FCAT / FCAT 2.0 Reading and Mathematics tests to meet Florida's testing requirement for a standard diploma. Students have multiple opportunities to do so prior to graduation. The first FCAT / FCAT 2.0 administration that can be used to satisfy the graduation requirement takes place in the spring of tenth grade, as part of the standard FCAT / FCAT 2.0 Reading, Mathematics, and Science assessment program. In Spring 2011, 24,453 Grade 10 students took the FCAT 2.0 Reading test and 24,216 took the FCAT Mathematics test. These are duplicated counts, as the majority of the students took both tests.

Note that only the new FCAT 2.0 Reading assessment for Grade 10 has been phased in this year as a graduation requirement. As such, the FCAT 2.0 results for Reading are being reported as FCAT ESS/EDSS. However, the Grade 10 FCAT Mathematics remains as a measure of the original Sunshine State Standards, as administered in prior years; therefore, FCAT Mathematics is being reported on the existing FCAT scale.

The FCAT Scale Scores can range from 100 to 500, and students must attain passing scores of 300 on both the Reading and the Mathematics tests to graduate with a standard diploma. The passing rate information provided below is for first-time test takers and does not include retained Grade 10 students who took the FCAT Retake format of the test. Table 7 provides the percentages of the Grade 10 students who met graduation requirements in reading and/or mathematics on their first attempt.

**Table 1**  
**FCAT / FCAT 2.0 Reading**  
**District and State 2009, 2010, and 2011**  
**Percentages of Students Scoring in Achievement Levels 1, 2, and 3-5, by Grade**

READING	Number Tested			Level 1			Level 2			Levels 3-5				
	2009	2010	2011	2009	2010	2011	2009	2010	2011	2009	2010	2011	Diff. 10-11	
<b>GRADE 3</b>														
District	27,386	27,217	27,217	22	20	21	13	12	12	12	0	65	68	67
State	205,135	205,639	202,686	17	16	16	12	12	12	0	0	71	72	72
<b>GRADE 4</b>														
District	26,034	26,057	25,973	17	17	18	14	13	13	13	0	70	70	69
State	195,826	197,230	198,877	13	16	15	13	13	13	0	0	74	72	71
<b>GRADE 5</b>														
District	25,826	26,398	26,478	17	18	18	15	16	16	16	0	67	66	66
State	192,410	196,559	198,401	14	15	16	14	15	15	0	0	71	69	69
<b>GRADE 6</b>														
District	26,282	26,291	26,619	21	21	20	19	17	17	17	0	60	62	63
State	196,587	194,407	197,859	16	17	17	17	16	17	+1	+1	66	67	67
<b>GRADE 7</b>														
District	26,104	26,684	26,602	19	18	18	20	18	18	18	0	61	64	65
State	193,336	197,178	194,660	15	14	14	18	17	17	0	0	67	68	68
<b>GRADE 8</b>														
District	25,684	26,360	26,800	22	21	20	30	27	28	28	+1	48	51	52
State	194,554	193,010	195,792	18	17	17	28	27	27	0	0	54	55	55
<b>GRADE 9</b>														
District	24,070	26,547	26,663	26	25	27	31	32	31	31	-1	43	42	42
State	192,968	200,395	195,884	22	21	22	31	30	30	0	0	47	48	48
<b>GRADE 10</b>														
District	24,805	22,326	24,453	39	33	33	29	29	29	29	0	31	37	38
State	186,464	179,729	185,956	34	32	32	30	29	29	0	0	37	39	39

*Note.* Achievement Levels range from Level 1 (lowest) to Level 5 (highest). Those for 2011 represent FCAT Equivalent Scores on the new FCAT 2.0 in Reading. Percentages may not sum to 100 percent due to rounding, and include all students tested, including students with disabilities and English language learners. Only Grade 10 students participating in the standard FCAT 2.0 Reading administration are included in this summary, not those participating in the FCAT Retake.

**Table 2**  
**FCAT / FCAT 2.0 Mathematics**  
**District and State 2009, 2010, and 2011**  
**Percentages of Students Scoring in Achievement Levels 1, 2, and 3-5, by Grade**

MATHEMATICS	Number Tested			Level 1			Level 2			Levels 3-5					
	2009	2010	2011	2009	2010	2011	Diff. 10-11	2009	2010	2011	Diff. 10-11	2009	2010	2011	Diff. 10-11
<b>GRADE 3</b>															
District	27,389	27,230	27,237	10	9	9	0	13	13	13	0	76	78	78	0
State	205,135	205,720	202,719	10	9	9	0	13	13	13	0	78	78	78	0
<b>GRADE 4</b>															
District	26,039	26,063	25,978	11	11	10	-1	16	17	15	-2	73	72	75	+3
State	195,844	197,256	198,969	10	10	10	0	15	16	16	0	75	74	74	0
<b>GRADE 5</b>															
District	25,826	26,390	26,490	17	15	15	0	25	24	24	0	59	60	62	+2
State	192,333	196,648	198,520	14	14	14	0	24	23	23	0	62	63	63	0
<b>GRADE 6</b>															
District	26,249	26,286	26,580	28	27	29	+2	21	20	20	0	51	53	51	-2
State	196,408	194,399	197,668	24	23	23	0	21	19	20	+1	55	57	57	0
<b>GRADE 7</b>															
District	26,066	26,656	26,503	23	21	22	+1	21	21	21	0	56	59	57	-2
State	193,239	197,130	194,484	20	19	19	0	20	20	19	-1	60	61	62	+1
<b>GRADE 8</b>															
District	25,669	26,359	26,660	17	16	13	-3	23	22	21	-1	60	63	66	+3
State	194,297	192,919	195,479	14	12	12	0	20	20	20	0	66	68	68	0
<b>GRADE 9</b>															
District	24,030	26,494	n/a	14	15	n/a	-	21	22	n/a	-	65	63	n/a	-
State	192,598	200,111	n/a	12	13	n/a	-	20	20	n/a	-	68	67	n/a	-
<b>GRADE 10</b>															
District	24,700	22,273	24,216	15	9	13	+4	20	18	19	+1	65	73	68	-5
State	185,910	179,252	184,332	12	10	11	+1	18	17	18	+1	69	73	71	-2

*Note.* Achievement Levels range from Level 1 (lowest) to Level 5 (highest). Those for 2011 in Grades 3 - 8 represent FCAT Equivalent Scores on the new FCAT 2.0 in Mathematics. Percentages may not sum to 100 percent due to rounding, and include all students tested, including students with disabilities and English language learners. Only Grade 10 students participating in the standard FCAT Mathematics administration are included in this summary, not those participating in the FCAT Retake.

**Table 3**  
**FCAT Science**  
**District and State 2009, 2010, and 2011**  
**Percentages of Students Scoring in Achievement Levels 1, 2, and 3-5, by Grade**

SCIENCE	Number Tested			Level 1			Level 2			Levels 3-5					
	2009	2010	2011	2009	2010	2011	Diff. 10-11	2009	2010	2011	Diff. 10-11	2009	2010	2011	Diff. 10-11
<b>GRADE 5</b>															
District	25,801	26,367	26,422	26	24	22	-2	32	32	29	-3	42	44	49	+5
State	191,751	196,011	197,657	21	19	19	0	32	32	30	-2	46	49	51	+2
<b>GRADE 8</b>															
District	25,555	26,250	26,534	34	33	28	-5	32	33	31	-2	34	34	41	+7
State	193,018	192,138	194,975	27	25	23	-2	32	32	32	0	41	43	46	+3
<b>GRADE 11</b>															
District	21,764	23,260	20,617	40	36	30	-6	31	33	33	0	29	30	37	+7
State	167,041	172,954	164,047	31	28	28	0	32	34	32	-2	37	38	40	+2

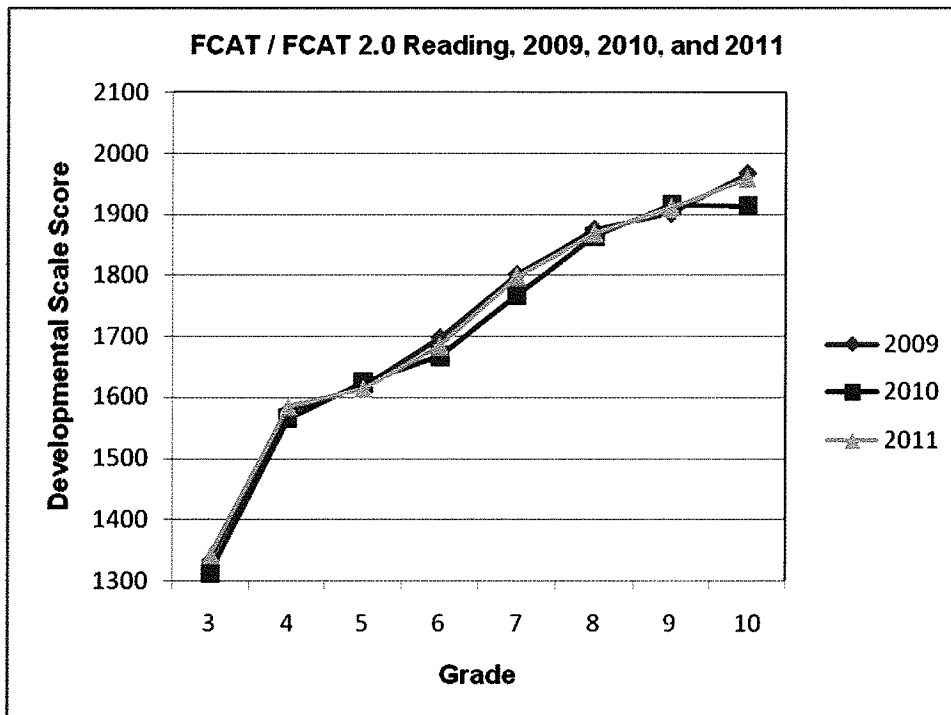
*Note.* Achievement Levels range from Level 1 (lowest) to Level 5 (highest). Percentages may not sum to 100 percent due to rounding, and include all students tested, including students with disabilities and English language learners.



**Table 4**  
**FCAT / FCAT 2.0 Reading**  
**District Results 2009, 2010, and 2011**  
**Mean Scale Scores and Developmental Scale Scores, by Grade**

Grade / Year	Mean Scale Score (SS/ESS: 100 - 500)			Mean Developmental Scale Score (DSS/EDSS: 0 - 3000)		
	2009	2010	2011	2009	2010	2011
3	302	307	306	1313	1343	1334
4	317	320	319	1566	1585	1578
5	305	304	304	1624	1614	1617
6	304	306	309	1668	1684	1698
7	309	315	316	1769	1798	1802
8	305	306	308	1864	1869	1876
9	311	310	308	1915	1911	1902
10	298	306	308	1914	1959	1968

Note: Scores reported for 2011 represent equated scores, placed on the original FCAT scale as FCAT Equivalent Scale Scores (ESS) and FCAT Equivalent Developmental Scale Scores (EDSS).

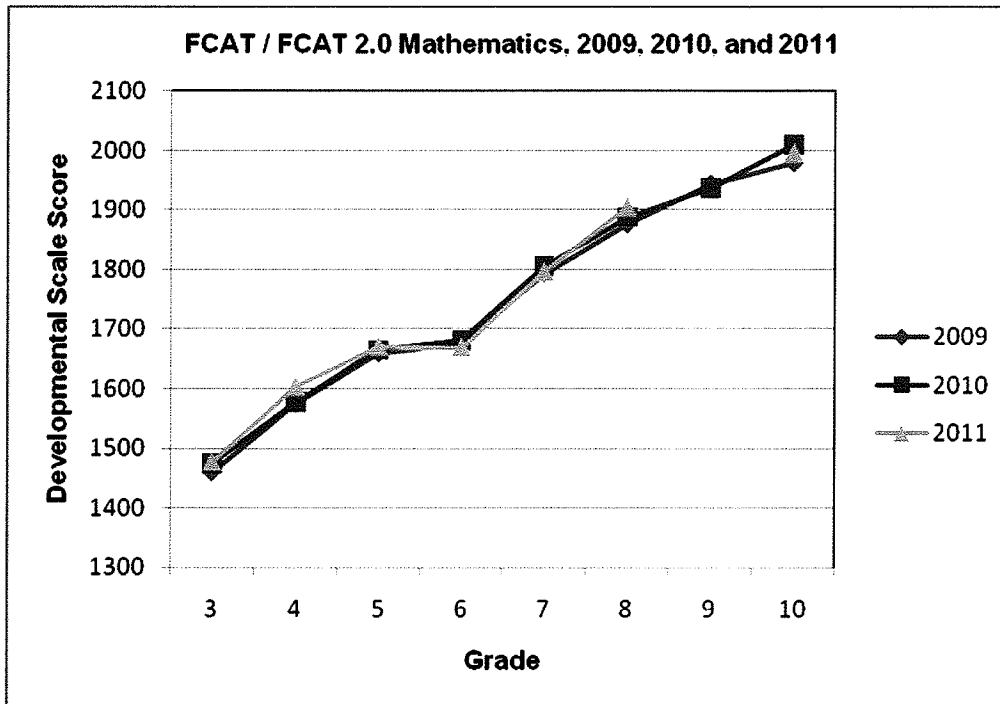


*Figure 1.* Mean Developmental Scale Scores (DSS/EDSS) on FCAT / FCAT 2.0 Reading for Miami-Dade County Public School students in 2009, 2010, and FCAT Equivalent Developmental Scale Scores in 2011.

**Table 5**  
**FCAT / FCAT 2.0 Mathematics**  
**District Results 2009, 2010, and 2011**  
**Mean Equivalent Scale Scores and Developmental Scale Scores, by Grade**

Grade / Year	Mean Scale Score (SS/ESS: 100 - 500)			Mean Developmental Scale Score (DSS/EDSS: 0 - 3000)		
	2009	2010	2011	2009	2010	2011
3	335	338	338	1460	1474	1477
4	327	328	334	1575	1577	1603
5	331	332	333	1660	1665	1670
6	310	312	309	1674	1681	1669
7	307	310	308	1794	1805	1796
8	316	318	323	1877	1888	1904
9	308	306	n/a	1944	1936	n/a
10	322	330	326	1980	2010	1996

Note: Note: Scores reported for 2011 represent equated scores, placed on the original FCAT scale as FCAT Equivalent Scale Scores (ESS) and FCAT Equivalent Developmental Scale Scores (EDSS).



*Figure 2.* Mean Developmental Scale Scores (DSS/EDSS) on FCAT / FCAT 2.0 Mathematics for Miami-Dade County Public School students in 2009, 2010, and FCAT Equivalent Developmental Scale Scores in 2011.

**Table 6**  
**FCAT Science**  
**District Results 2009, 2010, and 2011**  
**Mean Scale Scores, by Grade**

Grade / Year	Mean Scale Score (100 - 500)		
	2009	2010	2011
5	306	310	317
8	292	295	306
11	290	294	302

**Table 7**  
**Grade 10: FCAT / FCAT 2.0 Reading and Mathematics**  
**District and State 2009, 2010, and 2011**  
**Percentages of Students Meeting Graduation Requirements on the First Attempt**

GRADE 10	PERCENT PASSING			
	2009	2010	2011	Difference 2010-2011
<b>READING</b>				
District	51%	58%	59%	+1
State	57%	60%	60%	0
<b>MATHEMATICS</b>				
District	78%	85%	81%	-4
State	81%	84%	82%	-2

**Table 8**  
**FCAT/FCAT 2.0 Reading and Mathematics, Grades 3 - 10**  
**Percentages of Students Scoring in Achievement Levels 3 through 5**  
**Florida, Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach, 2010 and 2011**

	Florida			Miami-Dade			Broward			Palm Beach		
	Percent ALL Students		Difference 2010- 2011	Percent ALL Students		Difference 2010- 2011	Percent ALL Students		Difference 2010- 2011	Percent ALL Students		Difference 2010- 2011
	2010	2011		2010	2011		2010	2011		2010	2011	
<b>READING</b>												
Grade 3	72	72	0	68	67	-1	72	71	-1	68	70	+2
Grade 4	72	71	-1	70	69	-1	72	72	0	72	70	-2
Grade 5	69	69	0	66	66	0	70	69	-1	70	70	0
Grade 6	67	67	0	62	63	+1	69	69	0	68	68	0
Grade 7	68	68	0	64	65	+1	68	69	+1	71	70	-1
Grade 8	55	55	0	51	52	+1	60	58	-2	58	58	0
Grade 9	48	48	0	42	42	0	48	48	0	51	50	-1
Grade 10	39	39	0	37	38	+1	39	38	-1	45	43	-2
Sum of Difference*			-1			+2			-4			-4
<b>MATHEMATICS</b>												
Grade 3	78	78	0	78	78	0	80	80	0	79	75	-4
Grade 4	74	74	0	72	75	+3	76	77	+1	75	75	0
Grade 5	63	63	0	60	62	+2	68	68	0	65	64	-1
Grade 6	57	57	0	53	51	-2	64	63	-1	63	63	0
Grade 7	61	62	+1	59	57	-2	65	66	+1	70	68	-2
Grade 8	68	68	0	63	66	+3	72	72	0	73	77	+4
Grade 10	73	71	-2	73	68	-5	73	71	-2	77	74	-3
Sum of Difference*			-1			-1			-1			-6
<b>SCIENCE</b>												
Grade 5	49	51	+2	44	49	+5	48	50	+2	54	58	+4
Grade 8	43	46	+3	34	41	+7	45	44	-1	50	54	+4
Grade 11	38	40	+2	30	37	+7	36	37	+1	46	47	+1
Sum of Difference*			+7			+19			+2			+9

Note: The sums of the differences from 2010 to 2011 are provided as an indication of trends across grade levels and may not accurately reflect more precise weighted averages.