


MEMORANDUM

May 24, 2012

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 2012 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 2012 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. Current Grade 3 students who scored in Level 1 on the FCAT 2.0 in Reading will have additional opportunities to demonstrate reading mastery, as required for promotion to Grade 4, 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.

In the first of many changes to the State's assessments and Florida's school accountability system, the FLDOE transitioned from FCAT to FCAT 2.0 in 2011 to align with new academic content specified in the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards (NGSSS). **Expected levels of performance on these new assessments are particularly challenging in Miami-Dade County, given the disproportionate number of English Language Learners (ELL) served in our schools: approximately 70,000 students districtwide, or nearly three times the numbers served by other large districts in the State.** Third grade ELL students who have received services for two years are held to the State's mandatory retention requirement set for native English speakers despite research studies that show longer periods of time are required for full academic fluency to be attained.

Student results for the Spring 2012 FCAT 2.0 Reading and Mathematics assessments are being reported on the **new** FCAT 2.0 scale, which can range from 140 to 302 points across Grades 3 through 10 for FCAT 2.0 Reading, and from 140 to 298 points across Grades 3 through 8 for FCAT 2.0 Mathematics. In addition to the scale scores, results are also reported in terms of Achievement Levels, which can range from Level 1 (low) to Level 5 (high). Level 3 indicates satisfactory performance. In order to facilitate comparisons across time, the FLDOE has retrofitted the Spring 2011 scores to the new FCAT 2.0 scale.

In Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS), more than 27,000 Grade 3 students participated in the Spring 2012 FCAT 2.0 administration. Following are highlights of the results and a table summarizing District and State results.

- Overall, the District's third grade students' performance remained stable in 2012, based on the 2011 "retrofitted" FCAT 2.0 scale.
 - In Reading, 53% of the District's third grade students scored Levels 3 and above, up one percentage point on the new "retrofitted" scale. Despite the disproportionate numbers of English Language Learners (ELL) served in our schools, M-DCPS outpaced the State in Reading.
 - In Mathematics, 60% of the District's third grade students scored Levels 3 and above, up two percentage points on the new FCAT 2.0 scale.
 - The District's third grade students outpaced their counterparts statewide in the percent scoring 3 and above on FCAT 2.0 Mathematics in 2012.
- 79% of the District's students in Grade 3 demonstrated reading proficiency (Levels 2-5), as required for promotion to Grade 4.
- When comparing the 2011 FCAT results on the original scale to the 2012 FCAT 2.0 results, the percent of students scoring at Levels 3-5 decreased for both the District's students and students statewide. However, the statewide decreases in both Reading and Mathematics were larger than those of the District.
- Despite the stable performance M-DCPS students demonstrated on the new FCAT 2.0 scale, this represents a drop of 14 points in Reading and 18 points in Mathematics, based on the percent scoring 3 or above on the old FCAT SSS scale in 2011, as reported for school accountability.

Results for FCAT 2.0 Reading, Mathematics, and Science for students in the remaining grades, Grades 4 to 8, are scheduled to be released in early June. Complete State, District, and school summary reports will be posted as they become available and will also be made available on the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) website at <http://fcats.fldoe.org/mediapacket/2012/default.asp>. School shipments of individual student reports will be forwarded to schools as they are received.

If 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
Ms. Gisela Feild

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Summary of State and District Results for the
Spring 2012 Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test 2.0
Grade 3

On May 24, 2012 the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) released State and District summary data from the Spring 2012 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.

Last 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 were administered for the first time in Spring 2011.

For that first administration of the FCAT 2.0 assessments, students' results were reported on an "FCAT Equivalent" scale. However, beginning this year, students' FCAT 2.0 results are being reported as new developmental scale scores which can range from 140 to 302 for FCAT 2.0 Reading and from 140 to 298 for FCAT 2.0 Mathematics. In addition, Achievement Levels based on these new scale scores have been established. The new FCAT 2.0 Achievement Levels retain the same values as reported for FCAT (Levels 1 – 5), however they are not directly comparable; Level 3 remains an indicator of satisfactory performance. Students in Grade 3 must achieve an FCAT 2.0 Achievement Level 2 or higher in Reading to be eligible for promotion to Grade 4, unless they meet one of the good cause criteria for promotion.

To facilitate comparisons across time, the FLDOE has "retrofitted" Spring 2011 scores to the new FCAT 2.0 reporting scale. The tables included in this summary include data using both the FCAT (SSS) Equivalent scores originally reported in Spring 2011, and the new retrofitted FCAT 2.0 scores, wherever applicable.

Note that these summary results are based on all students tested, including Students with Disabilities (SWD) and English language learners (ELL). 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
Percent of Students Scoring in Achievement Levels 1, 2, and 3-5
District and State, 2011 and 2012

	DISTRICT				STATE			
	Percent ALL Students			Difference 2011- 2012	Percent ALL Students			Difference 2011- 2012
	2011 FCAT(SSS)	2011 FCAT 2.0	2012 FCAT 2.0		2011 FCAT(SSS)	2011 FCAT 2.0	2012 FCAT 2.0	
READING								
<i>Number tested:</i>	27,217	27,217	27,198		202,686	n/a	203,390	
Level 1	21	23	21	-2	16	18	18	0
Level 2	12	25	25	0	12	25	26	+1
Levels 3-5	67	52	53	+1	72	57	56	-1
MATHEMATICS								
<i>Number tested:</i>	27,237	27,237	27,189		202,719	n/a	203,207	
Level 1	9	19	17	-2	9	19	18	-1
Level 2	13	23	23	0	13	25	24	-1
Level 3-5	78	58	60	+2	78	56	58	+2

Note: Achievement levels range from Level 1 (lowest) to Level 5 (highest). Scores for 2011 are represented both as FCAT (SSS) Equivalent Scores, as reported in Spring 2011, and using the new "retrofitted" levels based on FCAT 2.0 scale scores. 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
Percent of Students Scoring in Achievement Levels 1, 2, and 3 - 5
Miami-Dade, Broward, Hillsborough, and Palm Beach, 2012

	Miami-Dade	Broward	Hillsborough	Palm Beach
READING				
<i>Number tested</i>	27,198	19,293	14,969	13,588
Level 1	21	19	18	20
Level 2	25	26	25	26
Level 3-5	53	56	57	54
MATHEMATICS				
<i>Number tested</i>	27,189	19,293	15,011	13,555
Level 1	17	18	20	19
Level 2	23	23	25	25
Level 3-5	60	59	55	56