


MEMORANDUM

June 5, 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 READING, MATHEMATICS, AND SCIENCE

Today the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) released results from the Spring 2012 administration of the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) 2.0 Reading, Mathematics, and Science. Specifically, District and School summary reports were provided for students in reading and mathematics, Grades 4 through 8; and in science, Grades 5 and 8. Although scores for students in Grades 3, 9 and 10 were released previously to facilitate promotion decisions, a summary of those results are also 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.

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 reading and mathematics last year and science in 2012 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 Public Schools (M-DCPS), given the disproportionate number of English Language Learners (ELL) served: approximately 70,000 students districtwide, or nearly three times the numbers served by other large districts in the State.** ELL students enrolled in Miami-Dade County are faced with systematic bias in being held to the same high standards in their second year of instruction as their counterparts who are native English speakers.

It should be noted that during the first year of administration in Spring 2011, students' FCAT 2.0 Reading and Mathematics test results were reported as equated FCAT Equivalent Developmental Scale Scores (EDSS). However, beginning this year, results for reading and mathematics are reported using new developmental scale scores which can range from 140 to 302 in reading across Grades 3 through 10, and from 140 to 298 in mathematics across Grades 3 through 8. 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.

As was the case last spring for reading and mathematics, students' results during the first administration of the new FCAT 2.0 Science in Grades 5 and 8 will be reported on an "FCAT Equivalent" scale, pending the establishment of the new FCAT 2.0 Science scale and Achievement Levels, which will be available in Spring 2013.

In Spring 2012, 211,293 M-DCPS students in Grades 3 – 10 took FCAT 2.0 Reading; 158,961 students in Grades 3 – 8 took FCAT 2.0 Mathematics, and 52,618 students in Grades 5 and 8 took FCAT 2.0 Science. Highlights of the M-DCPS students' results and summary tables providing comparisons of District and State results by grade level are provided as attachments to this memorandum, including:

- **Mathematics:** Overall, M-DCPS students' mathematics scores improved at all grade levels tested.
 - In mathematics, higher percentages of M-DCPS elementary students scored in Levels 3 and above than their counterparts across the state.
 - Across all grades tested, 56% of M-DCPS students scored in Levels 3 and above in mathematics.
 - A comparison of the 2012 FCAT 2.0 scores to the "retrofitted" 2011 scores shows improvements in the percent scoring 3 and above across all grades.
- **Reading:** 54% of all M-DCPS students scored in Levels 3 and above in 2012.
 - Results by grade were mixed, with substantial increases in the percent scoring three and above in reading, particularly at Grades 5 and 8, offset by declines in Grades 6 and 10.
- **Science:** On the new FCAT 2.0 Science assessment, M-DCPS 5th and 8th Grade students' scores held steady.
 - In science, 45% of M-DCPS students in Grades 5 and 8 scored 3 and above.
- Overall, improvement shown from 2011 to 2012 in Miami-Dade County surpassed that of comparable districts and the state.
 - Improvement of M-DCPS students in mathematics at Grades 5 through 8 exceeded that of students in Broward and Palm Beach Counties, and the State.
 - Improvement of M-DCPS students in reading at Grades 3, 5, 8 and 9 exceeded that of students in Broward and Palm Beach Counties, and the State.
- Despite M-DCPS students' improvement in reading and mathematics, as demonstrated by a comparison of 2011 and 2012 data on the same scale, the measures that will be used as performance indicators for accountability showed substantial declines. This will likely have a negative impact on the 2012 Florida School Grades.

Complete District, State, and school summary reports are available on the FLDOE website at <http://fcats.fldoe.org/mediapacket/2012/default.asp> in addition to an interactive database that provides summaries of the retrofitted scores for 2011. The FLDOE has provided information to parents to describe the changes in scores/scales appropriate for each program accessible at <http://www.floridapathtosuccess.org>, with additional information on the scoring process in *Understanding FCAT 2.0 Reports* at <http://fcats.fldoe.org/fcat2/pdf/s12uf2r.pdf>. School shipments of Individual Student Reports will be forwarded to schools as soon 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.

AMC:ig
M1256

Attachments

cc: School Board Attorney
Superintendent's Cabinet
Superintendent's Senior Staff
Ms. Gisela Feild

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Summary of District and State Results for the
Spring 2012 Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) 2.0
Reading, Mathematics, and Science
Grades 3 through 10

On June 5, 2012, the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) released data from the Spring 2012 administration of the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (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 and 8 in science.

The FCAT is a criterion-referenced test that measures students' mastery of grade-level content. Last year, the FLDOE transitioned from FCAT to FCAT 2.0 in reading and mathematics to align with new academic content specified in the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards (NGSSS). 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. In 2011-12, the FLDOE transitioned from FCAT to FCAT 2.0 Science in Grades 5 and 8. Note that senior high students no longer participate in comprehensive mathematics and science assessments. Instead, students take Florida's End-of-Course (EOC) Assessments, which target specific course content and are administered to all students taking the applicable course, without regard to grade level. Algebra 1 was the first EOC, first administered in 2010-11; followed by Biology 1 and Geometry this year.

For the first administration of the FCAT 2.0 Reading and Mathematics assessments in Spring 2011, students' results were reported on an "FCAT Equivalent" scale. However, beginning this year, students' FCAT 2.0 Reading and Mathematics 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, and serves as the passing score for Grade 10 FCAT 2.0 Reading, used as a graduation test requirement for a standard diploma.

Spring 2012 FCAT 2.0 Science results will be reported on the existing FCAT scale as FCAT Equivalent Scores because the new scale and Achievement Levels are not available this year. FCAT Equivalent Scores enable consistent student expectations to be maintained during this transition year. The new FCAT 2.0 Science score scale and achievement levels will be available in 2012-13.

In Spring 2012, 211,293 M-DCPS students in Grades 3 – 10 took FCAT 2.0 Reading; 158,618 students in Grades 3 – 8 took FCAT 2.0 Mathematics, and 52,956 students in Grades 5 and 8 took FCAT 2.0 Science. The following tables provide a view of student performance across two years: 2011 and 2012. 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.

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.

Also presented is a summary of student performance in terms of the appropriate scale score units, used to track growth in achievement as students’ progress from grade to grade. In Tables 4 and 5 for reading and mathematics, respectively: 2011 original FCAT Developmental Scale Scores (DSS) and retrofitted FCAT 2.0 Scale Scores; and 2012 FCAT 2.0 Scale Scores. In Table 6, the original FCAT (SSS) Scale Scores and FCAT (SSS) Equivalent Scale Scores are presented for science. Table 7 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), and do not represent the groupings that will be used by the State for accountability purposes.

Table 1
FCAT 2.0 Reading
District and State: 2011 and 2012
Percentages of Students Scoring in Achievement Levels 1, 2, and 3-5, by Grade

READING	Number Tested		Level 1				Level 2				Levels 3-5			
	2011	2012	2011 FCAT (SSS)	2011 FCAT 2.0	2012 FCAT 2.0	Diff. 2011- 2012	2011 FCAT (SSS)	2011 FCAT 2.0	2012 FCAT 2.0	Diff. 2011- 2012	2011 FCAT (SSS)	2011 FCAT 2.0	2012 FCAT 2.0	Diff. 2011- 2012
GRADE 3														
District	27,217	27,198	21	23	21	-2	12	25	25	0	67	52	53	1
State	202,686	203,390	16	18	18	0	12	25	26	1	72	57	56	-1
GRADE 4														
District	25,973	25,371	18	18	16	-2	13	26	25	-1	69	57	60	3
State	198,877	193,676	15	15	13	-2	13	26	25	-1	71	59	62	3
GRADE 5														
District	26,478	26,154	18	19	17	-2	16	26	23	-3	66	55	60	5
State	198,401	199,790	16	16	15	-1	15	26	24	-2	69	58	61	3
GRADE 6														
District	26,619	26,676	20	21	22	1	17	24	25	1	63	55	53	-2
State	197,859	198,947	17	17	19	2	17	24	24	0	67	58	57	-1
GRADE 7														
District	26,602	26,972	18	22	21	-1	18	24	25	1	65	54	54	0
State	194,660	198,281	14	18	18	0	17	24	25	1	68	58	58	0
GRADE 8														
District	26,800	26,717	20	21	19	-2	28	29	28	-1	52	50	54	4
State	195,792	194,566	17	19	17	-2	27	28	27	-1	55	53	55	2
GRADE 9														
District	26,663	27,214	27	24	22	-2	31	31	30	-1	42	45	48	3
State	195,884	197,063	22	19	18	-1	30	29	30	1	48	51	52	1
GRADE 10														
District	24,453	24,991	33	20	23	3	29	30	30	0	38	51	46	-5
State	185,956	184,403	32	19	20	1	29	30	30	0	39	52	50	-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 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 2.0 Mathematics
District and State: 2011 and 2012
Percentages of Students Scoring in Achievement Levels 1, 2, and 3-5, by Grade

MATHEMATICS	Number Tested		Level 1				Level 2				Levels 3-5			
	2011	2012	2011 FCAT (SSS)	2011 FCAT 2.0	2012 FCAT 2.0	Diff. 2011- 2012	2011 FCAT (SSS)	2011 FCAT 2.0	2012 FCAT 2.0	Diff. 2011- 2012	2011 FCAT (SSS)	2011 FCAT 2.0	2012 FCAT 2.0	Diff. 2011- 2012
GRADE 3														
District	27,237	27,189	9	19	17	-2	13	23	23	0	78	58	60	2
State	202,719	203,207	9	19	18	-1	13	25	24	-1	78	56	58	2
GRADE 4														
District	25,978	25,368	10	19	18	-1	15	20	20	0	75	61	62	1
State	198,969	193,802	10	19	18	-1	16	23	22	-1	74	58	60	2
GRADE 5														
District	26,490	26,131	15	20	18	-2	24	26	24	-2	62	54	58	4
State	198,520	199,844	14	19	19	0	23	25	24	-1	63	56	57	1
GRADE 6														
District	26,580	26,676	29	28	26	-2	20	24	25	1	51	47	50	3
State	197,668	199,076	23	22	23	1	20	24	25	1	57	53	53	0
GRADE 7														
District	26,503	26,961	22	23	24	1	21	25	24	-1	57	51	52	1
State	194,484	198,277	19	20	20	0	19	24	24	0	62	56	56	0
GRADE 8														
District	26,600	26,636	13	24	23	-1	21	22	22	0	66	54	56	2
State	195,479	194,346	12	22	22	0	20	22	21	-1	68	56	57	1

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 rounding, and include all students tested, including students with disabilities and English language learners.

Table 3
FCAT/FCAT 2.0 Science
District and State: 2010, 2011, and 2012
Percentages of Students Scoring in Achievement Levels 1, 2, and 3-5, by Grade

SCIENCE	Number Tested			Level 1			Level 2			Levels 3-5					
	2010	2011	2012	2010	2011	2012	Diff. 11-12	2010	2011	2012	Diff. 11-12	2010	2011	2012	Diff. 11-12
GRADE 5															
District	26,367	26,422	26,105	24	22	23	1	32	29	29	0	44	49	48	-1
State	196,011	197,657	199,164	19	19	20	1	32	30	29	-1	49	51	51	0
GRADE 8															
District	26,250	26,534	26,513	33	28	27	-1	33	31	30	-1	34	41	43	2
State	192,138	194,975	193,401	25	23	22	-1	32	32	31	-1	43	46	46	0

Note: Achievement Levels range from Level 1 (lowest) to Level 5 (highest). Scores for 2010 and 2011 are from the original FCAT (SSS) Science assessment. Those for 2012 represent FCAT equivalent scores for the new FCAT 2.0 Science assessment. 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 2.0 Reading
District and State: 2011 and 2012
Mean Scale Scores, by Grade

Grade	District			State		
	2011	2011	2012	2011	2011	2012
	FCAT(SSS)	FCAT 2.0	FCAT 2.0	FCAT(SSS)	FCAT 2.0	FCAT 2.0
	EDSS	SS	SS	EDSS	SS	SS
3	1334	197	199	1386	200	201
4	1578	210	212	1603	212	213
5	1617	217	220	1649	219	221
6	1698	223	223	1734	225	225
7	1802	229	229	1835	231	231
8	1876	234	236	1900	236	237
9	1902	236	237	1947	240	240
10	1968	244	242	1976	245	244

Note: Scores for 2011 are represented both as FCAT Equivalent Developmental Scale Scores (EDSS), as reported in Spring 2011, and using the new "retrofitted" FCAT 2.0 Scale Scores (SS).

Table 5
FCAT 2.0 Mathematics
District and State: 2011 and 2012
Mean Scale Scores, by Grade

Grade	District				State	
	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012
	FCAT(SSS)	FCAT 2.0	FCAT (SSS)	FCAT 2.0	FCAT 2.0	FCAT 2.0
	EDSS	SS	EDSS	SS	SS	SS
3	1477	201	1470	202	201	202
4	1603	215	1590	216	214	215
5	1670	220	1681	223	221	222
6	1669	223	1712	225	227	227
7	1796	233	1822	233	236	236
8	1904	242	1912	242	246	243

Note. Scores for 2011 are represented both as FCAT Equivalent Developmental Scale Scores (EDSS), as reported in Spring 2011, and using the new "retrofitted" FCAT 2.0 Scale Scores (SS).

Table 6
FCAT /FCAT 2.0 Science
District and State: 2011 and 2012
Mean Scale Scores, by Grade

Grade	District		State	
	2011	2012	2011	2012
	FCAT (SSS)	FCAT Equivalent	FCAT (SSS)	FCAT Equivalent
5	317	315	322	322
8	306	308	315	316

Note. Scores for the new 2012 FCAT 2.0 are represented as FCAT (SSS) Equivalent Scale Scores.

Table 7
FCAT/FCAT 2.0 Reading, Mathematics, and Science
Percentages of Students Scoring in Achievement Levels 3 through 5
Florida, Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach, 2011 and 2012

	Florida		Miami-Dade		Broward		Palm Beach	
	Percent ALL Students		Percent ALL Students		Percent ALL Students		Percent ALL Students	
	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012
	Difference 2011-2012		Difference 2011-2012		Difference 2011-2012		Difference 2011-2012	
READING: FCAT 2.0 Scale								
Grade 3	57	56	52	53	56	56	55	54
		-1					0	-1
Grade 4	59	62	57	60	59	62	57	61
		3					3	4
Grade 5	58	61	55	60	58	61	58	61
		3					3	3
Grade 6	58	57	55	53	61	58	60	56
		-1					-3	-4
Grade 7	58	58	54	54	60	60	59	58
		0					0	-1
Grade 8	53	55	50	54	55	57	56	59
		2					2	3
Grade 9	51	52	45	48	51	51	53	53
		1					0	0
Grade 10	52	50	51	46	51	49	55	54
		-2					-2	-1
MATHEMATICS: FCAT 2.0 Scale								
Grade 3	56	58	58	60	60	59	53	56
		2					-1	3
Grade 4	58	60	61	62	63	63	61	62
		2					0	1
Grade 5	56	57	54	58	61	61	56	57
		1					0	1
Grade 6	53	53	47	50	59	56	59	56
		0					-3	-3
Grade 7	56	56	51	52	60	60	63	61
		0					0	-2
Grade 8	56	57	54	56	61	63	67	67
		1					2	0
SCIENCE: FCAT SSS Scale								
Grade 5	51	51	49	48	50	49	58	55
		0					-1	-3
Grade 8	46	46	41	43	44	45	54	51
		0					1	-3

Note. Achievement Levels range from Level 1 (lowest) to Level 5 (highest). Scores for Reading and Mathematics are represented by FCAT 2.0 scale scores, with 2011 results retrofitted to the FCAT 2.0 scale. Scores for Science are represented by FCAT SSS scale scores with 2012 FCAT 2.0 scores based on FCAT Equivalent scores.