


MEMORANDUM

June 7, 2013

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 2013 FLORIDA COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT TEST (FCAT) 2.0 READING, MATHEMATICS, AND SCIENCE

Today the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) released results from the Spring 2013 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 10; and in science, Grades 5 and 8. Reading and mathematics scores for students in Grade 3 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 in 2011 and in science in 2012 to align with new academic content specified in the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards (NGSSS).

Results for reading and mathematics are reported using 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.

Beginning this year, results for FCAT 2.0 Science in Grades 5 and 8 are reported using a newly developed scale which can range from 140 to 260. In addition to the scale scores, results are also reported in terms of Achievement Levels, with Level 3 indicating satisfactory performance. In 2012, students' science results were reported on an "FCAT Equivalent" scale which cannot be directly compared to the new scale used this year. The FLDOE will retrofit the Spring 2012 scores to the new FCAT 2.0 scale to facilitate comparisons across time, and those scores will be provided as soon as they are released.

In Spring 2013, 210,863 M-DCPS students in Grades 3 – 10 took FCAT 2.0 Reading; 146,718 students in Grades 3 – 8 took FCAT 2.0 Mathematics; and 51,165 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.

Reading

- M-DCPS middle and senior high students' improvement in Reading exceeded that of the state and other large districts.
 - On FCAT 2.0 Reading, significantly higher percentages of M-DCPS students in Grades 6 – 10 scored in Levels 3 and above in 2013 than in 2012.
- Across all grades, more than half of M-DCPS students scored high (Levels 3 or above).
- Over 50% of M-DCPS Grade 10 students passed FCAT 2.0 Reading on their first attempt to meet the graduation test requirement.

Mathematics

- Higher percentage of M-DCPS elementary students scored high (Levels 3 and above) in Mathematics than elementary students statewide.
- Significantly fewer 8th grade students participated in FCAT 2.0 Mathematics, due to a statewide initiative calling for high performing students to enroll in Algebra 1 rather than the traditional eighth grade mathematics course. As such, smaller percentages scored high, both at the state and district level.

Science

- For the first time, over half of the 5th Grade students in M-DCPS scored in Levels 3 and above in Science.

Complete District, State, and school summary reports are available on the FLDOE website at <http://fcats.fldoe.org/mediapacket/2013/default.asp>. Also, provided on this site is an interactive database that provides summaries of the retrofitted Science scores for 2012. The FLDOE has provided information on the scoring process in *Understanding FCAT 2.0 Reports* at <http://fcats.fldoe.org/mediapacket/2013/pdf/2013UFR.pdf>. School shipments of Individual Student Reports will be forwarded to schools as soon as they are received.

If you have any questions about the attached results, please contact Ms. Milagros R. Fornell, Chief Academic Officer, Office of Academics and Transformation, at 305 995-1451, 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 District and State Results for the
Spring 2013 Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) 2.0
Reading, Mathematics, and Science
Grades 3 through 10

On June 7, 2013, the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) released data from the Spring 2013 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. The FLDOE began transitioning from FCAT to FCAT 2.0 in the 2010-11 school year 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. Last school year, 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 in 2011-12.

Results for reading and mathematics are reported using 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 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.

Beginning this year, results for FCAT 2.0 Science in Grades 5 and 8 are reported using a newly developed scale which can range from 140 to 260. In addition to the scale scores, results are also reported in terms of Achievement Levels, with Level 3 indicating satisfactory performance. In 2012, students' science results were reported on an "FCAT Equivalent" scale which cannot be directly compared to the new scale used this year. The FLDOE will retrofit the Spring 2012 scores to the new FCAT 2.0 scale to facilitate comparisons across time, and those scores will be provided as soon as they are released.

To facilitate comparisons across time, the FLDOE has "retrofitted" Spring 2012 Science 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 2012, and the new retrofitted FCAT 2.0 scores, wherever applicable.

In Spring 2013, 210,863 M-DCPS students in Grades 3 through 10 took FCAT 2.0 Reading; 146,718 students in Grades 3 through 8 took FCAT 2.0 Mathematics, and 51,165 students in Grades 5 and 8 took FCAT 2.0 Science. The following tables provide a view of student performance across two years: 2012 and 2013. 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 appropriate scale score units, used to track growth in achievement as students' progress from grade to grade, with reading and mathematics presented in Tables 4 and 5 for reading and mathematics, respectively. Table 6 presents a comparison of change from 2012 to 2013 in the M-DCPS, the state, and across other large districts.

GRADE 10 FCAT 2.0 READING GRADUATION TEST PASSING RATE

Students who entered Grade 9 in the 2010-11 school year and beyond must score in Achievement Level 3 or above (scale score of 245 or above) on the Grade 10 FCAT 2.0 Reading for graduation purposes. However, the FCAT Mathematics graduation test requirement was discontinued with this cohort of students, transitioning to high school End-of-Course assessments in mathematics and science. Students have multiple opportunities to meet the FCAT 2.0 Reading graduation test requirement prior to graduation, with the first opportunity taking place in the spring of 10th Grade (Grade 10 results are shown on Table 1).

Table 1
FCAT 2.0 Reading
District and State: 2012 and 2013
Percentages of Students Scoring in Achievement Levels 1, 2, and 3-5, by Grade

READING	Number Tested		Level 1			Level 2			Levels 3-5		
	2012	2013	2012	2013	Diff. 2012-2013	2012	2013	Diff. 2012-2013	2012	2013	Diff. 2012-2013
GRADE 3											
District	27,198	26,711	21	22	+1	25	25	0	53	53	0
State	203,390	205,984	18	18	0	26	25	-1	56	57	+1
GRADE 4											
District	25,371	25,582	16	17	+1	25	24	-1	60	59	-1
State	193,676	193,751	13	15	+2	25	25	0	62	60	-2
GRADE 5											
District	26,154	25,570	17	16	-1	23	25	+2	60	59	-1
State	199,790	195,188	15	15	0	24	25	+1	61	60	-1
GRADE 6											
District	26,676	26,230	22	21	-1	25	22	-3	53	57	+4
State	198,947	199,458	19	19	0	24	23	-1	57	59	+2
GRADE 7											
District	26,972	26,864	21	22	+1	25	22	-3	54	57	+3
State	198,281	199,316	18	20	+2	25	23	-2	58	57	-1
GRADE 8											
District	26,717	27,066	19	19	0	28	26	-2	54	56	+2
State	194,566	198,201	17	17	0	27	27	0	55	56	+1
GRADE 9											
District	27,214	26,975	22	21	-1	30	27	-3	48	52	+4
State	197,063	197,121	18	19	+1	30	28	-2	52	53	+1
GRADE 10											
District	24,991	25,865	23	20	-3	30	28	-2	46	52	+6
State	184,403	189,047	20	18	-2	30	28	-2	50	54	+4

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. 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: 2012 and 2013
Percentages of Students Scoring in Achievement Levels 1, 2, and 3-5, by Grade

MATHEMATICS	Number Tested		Level 1			Level 2			Levels 3-5		
	2012	2013	2012	2013	Diff. 2012-2013	2012	2013	Diff. 2012-2013	2012	2013	Diff. 2012-2013
GRADE 3											
District	27,189	26,711	17	17	0	23	21	-2	60	62	+2
State	203,207	205,717	18	18	0	24	24	0	58	58	0
GRADE 4											
District	25,368	25,592	18	17	-1	20	19	-1	62	64	+2
State	193,802	193,956	18	17	-1	22	21	-1	60	61	+1
GRADE 5											
District	26,131	25,541	18	20	+2	24	24	0	58	56	-2
State	199,844	195,012	19	20	+1	24	25	+1	57	55	-2
GRADE 6											
District	26,676	26,204	26	26	0	25	23	-2	50	51	+1
State	199,076	199,520	23	23	0	25	24	-1	53	52	-1
GRADE 7											
District	26,961	24,562	24	24	0	24	25	+1	52	51	-1
State	198,277	194,065	20	21	+1	24	24	0	56	55	-1
GRADE 8											
District	26,636	18,108*	23	37	+14	22	29	+7	56	35	-21
State	194,346	174,349	22	25	+3	21	24	+3	57	51	-6

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.

* The number of students participating in Grade 8 FCAT 2.0 Mathematics decreased in 2013 due to a statewide initiative calling for high performing students to enroll in Algebra 1 (and take the Algebra 1 End-of-Course assessment), rather than the traditional eighth grade mathematics course.

Table 3
FCAT 2.0 Science
District and State: 2012 and 2013
Percentages of Students Scoring in Achievement Levels 1, 2, and 3-5, by Grade

SCIENCE	Number Tested		Level 1				Level 2				Levels 3-5			
	2012	2013	2012		2013		2012		2013		2012		2013	
			FCAT (SSS)	FCAT 2.0	FCAT (SSS)	FCAT 2.0	FCAT (SSS)	FCAT 2.0	FCAT (SSS)	FCAT 2.0	FCAT (SSS)	FCAT 2.0	Diff. 12-13	FCAT 2.0
GRADE 5														
District	26,105	25,560	23	n/a	24	n/a	29	n/a	24	n/a	48	n/a	51	n/a
State	199,164	195,131	20	n/a	21	n/a	29	n/a	26	n/a	51	n/a	53	n/a
GRADE 8														
District	26,513	25,605	27	n/a	27	n/a	30	n/a	31	n/a	43	n/a	42	n/a
State	193,401	195,685	22	n/a	22	n/a	31	n/a	31	n/a	46	n/a	47	n/a

Note: Achievement Levels range from Level 1 (lowest) to Level 5 (highest). Scores for 2012 are represented both as FCAT (SSS) equivalent scores, as reported in Spring 2012, 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. Results based on retrofitted scores from 2012 (n/a) will be reported when released by the FLDOE.

Table 4
FCAT 2.0 Reading
District and State: 2012 and 2013
Mean Scale Scores, by Grade

Grade	District			State		
	2012	2013	Difference 2012-2013	2012	2013	Difference 2012-2013
3	199	198	-1	201	201	0
4	212	211	-1	213	212	-1
5	220	219	-1	221	220	-1
6	223	224	+1	225	225	0
7	229	230	+1	231	231	0
8	236	237	+1	237	237	0
9	237	239	+2	240	240	0
10	242	244	+2	244	246	+2

Table 5
FCAT 2.0 Mathematics
District and State: 2012 and 2013
Mean Scale Scores, by Grade

Grade	District			State		
	2012	2013	Difference 2012-2013	2012	2013	Difference 2012-2013
3	202	203	+1	202	201	-1
4	216	217	+1	215	215	0
5	223	221	-2	222	221	-1
6	225	225	0	227	226	-1
7	233	233	0	236	235	-1
8	242	232	-10	243	240	-3

Table 6
FCAT 2.0 Reading and Mathematics
Percentages of Students Scoring in Achievement Levels 3 through 5
Florida, Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach, 2012 and 2013

	Florida			Miami-Dade			Broward			Palm Beach		
	Percent ALL Students		Difference 2012-2013	Percent ALL Students		Difference 2012-2013	Percent ALL Students		Difference 2012-2013	Percent ALL Students		Difference 2012-2013
	2012	2013		2012	2013		2012	2013		2012	2013	
READING												
Grade 3	56	57	+1	53	53	0	56	54	-2	54	54	0
Grade 4	62	60	-2	60	59	-1	62	59	-3	61	61	0
Grade 5	61	60	-1	60	59	-1	61	60	-1	61	61	0
Grade 6	57	59	+2	53	57	+4	58	60	+2	56	59	+3
Grade 7	58	57	-1	54	57	+3	60	58	-2	58	59	+1
Grade 8	55	56	+1	54	56	+2	57	59	+2	59	59	0
Grade 9	52	53	+1	48	52	+4	51	53	+2	53	55	+2
Grade 10	50	54	+4	46	52	+6	49	52	+3	54	58	+4
MATHEMATICS												
Grade 3	58	58	0	60	62	+2	59	58	-1	56	59	+3
Grade 4	60	61	+1	62	64	+2	63	63	0	62	64	+2
Grade 5	57	55	-2	58	56	-2	61	57	-4	57	57	0
Grade 6	53	52	-1	50	51	+1	56	55	-1	56	54	-2
Grade 7	56	55	-1	52	51	-1	60	53	-7	61	60	-1
Grade 8	57	51	-6	56	35	-21	63	48	-15	67	61	-6

Note. Achievement Levels range from Level 1 (lowest) to Level 5 (highest).