

MEMORANDUM

May 16, 2013

TO: The Honorable Chair and Members of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida

FROM: Alberto M. Carvalho, Superintendent of Schools *AMC/B*

SUBJECT: STATE RELEASE OF INITIAL RESULTS FOR THE SPRING 2013 FLORIDA COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT TEST (FCAT/FCAT 2.0): READING AND MATHEMATICS RETAKE

Today the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) released the first round of results from the Spring 2013 administration of the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT). Specifically, results were released for FCAT/FCAT 2.0 Reading and Mathematics Retake for students in grades 11-12 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 remaining grade levels to facilitate graduation decisions.

The FCAT Mathematics Retake remains the only FCAT Sunshine State Standards (SSS) assessment still in use, with this being its final administration. Students who have not achieved a passing score on the FCAT Mathematics Retake by Spring 2013 may participate in the ACT or SAT to achieve a concordant score if needed for high school graduation purposes (students in the 2009-2010 cohort or earlier).

Overall, 13,610 Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) students in grades 11 and 12 participated in the Reading 2.0 Retake administration while 1,827 participated in the Mathematics Retake administration. The numbers taking each test form, by grade level, may be found on the attached tables, along with a summary of state and District results.

The following are highlights of the results:

- Far more students participated in the FCAT 2.0 Reading assessment in 2013 than during its first year of implementation in 2012, when the FCAT SSS version was also offered; and
- The passing rates in M-DCPS were comparable to, but slightly lower than those in the state, which may be expected due to slightly higher percentages of the M-DCPS students participating.

Additional information on the testing program and tables summarizing District and state results are provided as attachments to this memorandum. Results for FCAT 2.0 Writing for students in grades 4, 8, and 10, FCAT 2.0 Reading for students in grades 3-10, FCAT 2.0 Mathematics for students in grades 3-8, and FCAT 2.0 Science for students in grades 5 and 8 will be provided as soon as they become available. Complete District,

state, and school summary reports will also be made available on the FLDOE website at <http://fcat.fldoe.org/mediapacket/2013/default.asp>. School shipments of Individual Student Reports will be forwarded to schools for distribution to parents.

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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Attachment

cc: School Board Attorney
Superintendent's Cabinet
Superintendent's Senior Staff

**Summary of District and State Results for the
Spring 2013 Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT/FCAT 2.0)
Reading and Mathematics Retake: Grades 11 – 12**

On May 16, 2013, the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) released data from the Spring 2013 administration of the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT/FCAT 2.0) Reading and Mathematics Retake tests. The tables that follow provide summaries of the data for students in grades 11 and 12 for Reading and Mathematics Retake graduation test results.

All Florida public school students are required to pass specific tests to meet high school graduation requirements. Students must pass the appropriate form of the FCAT/FCAT 2.0 Reading, while only those who entered grade 9 prior to the 2010-2011 school year are required to pass the FCAT Mathematics for a standard diploma. 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/FCAT 2.0 Retake administration is offered in the fall.

The FCAT 2.0 Reading Retake test and the FCAT Sunshine State Standards (SSS) Mathematics Retake were administered in Spring 2013. It should be noted that this will be the last administration of the FCAT Mathematics Retake. Students who do not achieve a passing score on the FCAT Mathematics Retake may participate in the ACT or SAT to achieve a concordant score for high school graduation purposes.

Retake assessments are administered on a 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 Education Plan (IEP) or Section 504 Plan. The scores for all students participating in either CBT or paper-based administrations are included in these summary results.

The Spring 2013 FCAT administration was the last opportunity for current grade 12 students to pass the FCAT/FCAT 2.0 Retake prior to their scheduled graduation. Students may participate in Retake administrations after their scheduled graduation date if they meet eligibility requirements.

Interpreting FCAT/FCAT 2.0 Retake Results

Several factors must be considered in interpreting the FCAT/FCAT 2.0 Retake results. First, students 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 of students 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 test during an earlier opportunity are eligible to participate in the Retake administration. Also, beginning in the 2010-2011 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/FCAT 2.0 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.

The FCAT 2.0 Reading Retake scores are reported using the FCAT 2.0 developmental scale scores, which can range from 188 to 302. Students who entered grade 9 in 2009-2010 and earlier must achieve a lower passing FCAT 2.0 scale score of 241, which is equivalent to the previously applied FCAT equivalent scale score of 300. Moreover, students who entered grade 9 in 2010-2011 and beyond must earn an FCAT 2.0 scale score of 245 to pass the Reading assessment.

Results for the FCAT 2.0 Reading Retake are provided in Table 1 which lists the number of grades 11 and 12 students tested in reading and the passing rates from 2012 through 2013; results for the FCAT Mathematics Retake are provided in Table 2 which lists the number of grades 11 and 12 students tested in mathematics and the passing rates from 2011 through 2013. Also included in the tables are the percentages of the total number of enrolled grades 11 and 12 students participating in this administration of the FCAT Retake.

Note that some additional students, such as those retained in grade 10 or those who took the test after their scheduled graduation dates (grade 13 and adult education students), participated in this administration. 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 2.0 Reading Retake
Grades 11 and 12: District and State, 2012 and 2013
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	2012	7,112	28	21	47,472	24	24
	2013	9,485	37	22	62,429	32	24
Grade 12*	2012	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	2013	4,125	17	16	23,182	13	17

*These students are part of the 2009-2010 cohort and took the FCAT 2.0 Reading graduation test for the first time in spring 2011. As such, they are the first graduating cohort taking the FCAT 2.0 version. No grade 12 students participated in 2012.

**Denotes the number of students participating in this FCAT 2.0 Retake administration as a percentage of the total number of enrolled students.

Table 2
FCAT (SSS) Retake Mathematics
Grades 11 and 12: District and State, 2011, 2012, and 2013
Number Tested, Percent of Enrolled Students Tested, 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	2011	2,337	10	25	17,695	9	29
	2012	3,216	13	24	21,573	11	27
	2013	245	1	21	2,176	1	22
Grade 12*	2011	1,469	6	16	7,084	4	21
	2012	1,184	5	18	6,864	4	21
	2013	1,582	6	18	8,143	4	21

*These students are part of the 2009-2010 cohort which is the last cohort to have the Mathematics graduation test as a graduation requirement.

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