

MEMORANDUM

May 24, 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 RESULTS FOR THE SPRING 2013 FLORIDA COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT TEST (FCAT) 2.0 WRITING: GRADES 4, 8, AND 10

Today the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) released results from the Spring 2013 administration of Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) 2.0 Writing to students in Grades 4, 8, and 10. It should be noted that the name of the assessment changed to FCAT 2.0 in 2013. Higher scoring expectations were implemented in 2012, and students were allowed more time to respond to the writing prompt in 2013 than in previous years. Additional information on the changes may be found at <http://fcats.fldoe.org/fcat2/pdf/13fcat2writing.pdf>. The score requirements for the calculations of Florida School Grades will also be adjusted in 2013, up from 3.0 in 2012 (established via an emergency rule by the Florida State Board of Education), to 3.5 in 2013.

During the administration of FCAT 2.0 Writing, students in Grades 4, 8, and 10 are required to write an essay on an assigned topic within a 60 minute session: either narrative or expository at Grade 4, and either persuasive or expository at Grades 8 and 10. Reported scores for FCAT 2.0 Writing are traditional "rubric" scores, with four elements of writing (focus, organization, support, and conventions) evaluated using a holistic scoring method. Essay scores can range from a low of 1 to a high of 6; and because two readers scored each student essay, intermediary scores of 1.5, 2.5, 3.5, 4.5 and 5.5 are possible.

Nearly 78,590 Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) students in Grades 4, 8, and 10 participated in the Spring 2013 FCAT 2.0 Writing assessment. District summary tables are attached.

- M-DCPS' students' performance on FCAT 2.0 Writing improved significantly across all grade levels from 2012 to 2013.
 - 58 percent of all fourth grade students scored at 3.5 or above on FCAT 2.0 Writing, up 11 points from 2012 to 2013.
 - 49 percent of all eighth grade students scored at 3.5 or above on FCAT 2.0 Writing in 2013, compared to 47 percent in 2012.

- 66 percent of all tenth grade students scored at 3.5 or above on FCAT 2.0 Writing in 2013, showing an increase of 7 points from 2012.
- M-DCPS' fourth and tenth grade students had the greatest increases in both the percent scoring at 3.5 and 4.0 and above.
- For the first time, M-DCPS' fourth and tenth grade students' performance on FCAT 2.0 Writing surpassed the state in the measure used to calculate school grades (scores of 3.5 and above).
 - More growth was seen for M-DCPS students at all three grade levels, than for their counterparts statewide.

Please note that the FCAT 2.0 Writing reports released today provide summary data based on the scores of all students tested; these results do not reflect the groupings that will be used by the State for accountability purposes. Complete District, State, and school summary reports will be posted as they become available on the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) website. School shipments of Individual Student Reports are being forwarded to schools 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)
Grades 4, 8, and 10 FCAT 2.0 Writing

On May 24, 2013, the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) released District and State summary data from the Spring 2013 administration of the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) 2.0 Writing assessment. The summary data include results for all students tested in Grades 4, 8, and 10.

District Spring 2013 FCAT 2.0 Writing results are based on the following numbers of students tested: 25,441 in Grade 4, 26,974 in Grade 8, and 26,175 in Grade 10, for a total of 78,590. These figures include students from all curriculum groups and do not represent the groupings that will be used by the State for accountability purposes.

Since Spring 2010, only one prompt has been used at each grade level: either narrative (writing to tell a story) or expository (writing to explain) at Grade 4, and either persuasive (writing to convince) or expository at Grades 8 and 10. In 2012-13, allotted time for the Writing tests was expanded from a 45 minute session to a 60 minute session. In Spring 2013, students in Grade 4 responded to a narrative prompt, students in Grades 8 responded to a persuasive prompt and students in grade 10 responded to an expository prompt.

New FLDOE Calibration Scoring Guides were provided in August 2011, which established expanded expectations for students' essays. Specifically scoring included increased attention to the correct use of Standard English conventions and increased focus on specific support. These more stringent scoring criteria were implemented beginning in Spring 2012. Writing prompt descriptions and scoring guides with sample essays may be accessed at <http://fcat.fldoe.org/writing-prompts.asp>.

On May 15, 2012, the State Board of Education passed an emergency rule to adjust the writing scores used in the calculation of Florida School Grades in 2012 to accommodate the new scoring requirements. The criteria used in the calculation of Florida School Grades had gradually become more stringent over time since the inception of the program, beginning with the percentage scoring 3.0 or above, and increasing to the percentage scoring 4.0 or above in 2011. In 2012, the criteria were readjusted to the percentage scoring 3.0 or above to accommodate the change in scoring requirements. However, a recent revision to State Board of Education Rule established that the percentage of students scoring 3.5 or above will be used in 2013 for the Writing proficiency component of school grade calculations.

The FCAT 2.0 Writing reports released today provide summary data based on the scores of all students tested; these results do not reflect the groupings that will be used by the State for accountability purposes.

The following tables summarize 2013 FCAT 2.0 Writing results for the District and State. Displayed are summaries of students' performance for 2011, 2012, and 2013 on the essay portion, including mean essay scores and the percentages of students scoring 3.0 or above, 3.5 or above, and 4.0 or above to facilitate comparison with regard to the changing criteria across years.

Table 1
FCAT 2.0 Writing
State and District, 2011, 2012, and 2013
Mean Essay Scores

| | DISTRICT | | | | STATE | | | |
|----------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| | 2011 Mean Essay Score (N) | 2012 Mean Essay Score (N) | 2013 Mean Essay Score (N) | Difference 2012 - 2013 | 2011 Mean Essay Score (N) | 2012 Mean Essay Score (N) | 2013 Mean Essay Score (N) | Difference 2012 - 2013 |
| Grade 4 | 4.0 (25,877) | 3.2 (25,283) | 3.4 (25,441) | +0.2 | 4.0 (197,860) | 3.3 (192,753) | 3.4 (192,206) | +0.1 |
| Grade 8 | 4.1 (26,739) | 3.2 (26,595) | 3.2 (26,974) | 0 | 4.2 (195,702) | 3.3 (193,706) | 3.3 (196,719) | 0 |
| Grade 10 | 3.9 (25,140) | 3.4 (25,545) | 3.5 (26,175) | +0.1 | 4.0 (188,643) | 3.4 (187,416) | 3.5 (191,028) | +0.1 |

Note: Essay scores can range from 1 to 6. Results include all students tested, including students with disabilities and English language learners. Scores for 2013 reflect the FLDOE's more rigorous scoring requirements implemented in 2012.

Table 2
FCAT 2.0 Writing
State and District, 2011, 2012, and 2013
Percentages of Students Scoring at or above 3.0, 3.5, and 4.0

| | | DISTRICT | | | STATE | | |
|----------|------|----------|------|------|-------|------|------|
| | | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 |
| Grade 4 | ≥3.0 | 96% | 81% | 84% | 97% | 81% | 83% |
| | ≥3.5 | n/a | 47% | 58% | n/a | 48% | 57% |
| | ≥4.0 | 80% | 26% | 37% | 81% | 27% | 37% |
| Grade 8 | ≥3.0 | 96% | 75% | 77% | 97% | 78% | 79% |
| | ≥3.5 | n/a | 47% | 49% | n/a | 52% | 54% |
| | ≥4.0 | 79% | 28% | 29% | 82% | 33% | 35% |
| Grade 10 | ≥3.0 | 93% | 83% | 88% | 94% | 84% | 85% |
| | ≥3.5 | n/a | 59% | 66% | n/a | 60% | 62% |
| | ≥4.0 | 73% | 36% | 43% | 75% | 38% | 40% |

Note: Results include all students tested, including students with disabilities and English language learners. Scores for 2013 reflect the FLDOE's more rigorous scoring requirements implemented in 2012.

Table 3
FCAT 2.0 Writing
State and District, 2012 and 2013
Percentages of Students Scoring at Each Score Point

| FCAT 2.0 Writing Score Points | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|----------|------|---|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| | | | | 0 | 1.0 | 1.5 | 2.0 | 2.5 | 3.0 | 3.5 | 4.0 | 4.5 | 5.0 | 5.5 | 6.0 |
| District | Grade 4 | 2012 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 9 | 34 | 21 | 19 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 0 | |
| | | 2013 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 7 | 26 | 21 | 26 | 7 | 3 | 1 | 0 | |
| | Grade 8 | 2012 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 9 | 11 | 28 | 19 | 21 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 0 | |
| | | 2013 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 10 | 27 | 20 | 21 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 0 | |
| | Grade 10 | 2012 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 8 | 24 | 23 | 25 | 7 | 3 | 1 | 0 | |
| | | 2013 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 22 | 22 | 31 | 8 | 3 | 1 | 0 | |
| State | Grade 4 | 2012 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 9 | 33 | 21 | 19 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 0 | |
| | | 2013 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 7 | 26 | 20 | 24 | 8 | 4 | 1 | 0 | |
| | Grade 8 | 2012 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 8 | 10 | 26 | 19 | 23 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 0 | |
| | | 2013 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 8 | 9 | 26 | 19 | 23 | 7 | 3 | 1 | 0 | |
| | Grade 10 | 2012 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 8 | 24 | 22 | 26 | 8 | 3 | 1 | 0 | |
| | | 2013 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 8 | 23 | 22 | 28 | 8 | 3 | 1 | 0 | |

Note: Results include all students tested, including students with disabilities and English language learners. Scores for 2012 reflect the FLDOE's more rigorous scoring requirements implemented in 2012.