

MEMORANDUM

May 23, 2014

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

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

SUBJECT: STATE RELEASE OF RESULTS FOR THE SPRING 2014 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 2014 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 the summer reading camp.

In Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS), over 27,000 Grade 3 students participated in the Spring 2014 FCAT 2.0 administration. Following are highlights of the results and a table summarizing District and State results.

- In Mathematics, the District's third grade students continued to outperform their counterparts across the state, with 62% of M-DCPS students scoring 3 or above, as compared to 58% statewide.
 - M-DCPS' third grade students also outperformed other large districts in the state on FCAT 2.0 Mathematics.
- Overall, the District's third grade students' performance on FCAT 2.0 Reading improved, with 56% scoring Level 3 or above in 2014 as compared to 53% in 2013.
 - While the percentage of students' scoring high in the M-DCPS increased from 2013 to 2014, the state remained the same in Reading.
 - The three percentage point gain in Reading by M-DCPS third grade students reduced the gap with the state to just one percentage point.
- M-DCPS' students stable performance in Reading, when compared to their demonstrated success in Mathematics is yet another indication of the challenges faced by our diverse student body, many of whom are English language learners.

The FLDOE issued a press release this morning congratulating both Miami-Dade and Broward for improved student performance. Commissioner Pam Stewart noted that "These impressive gains are the result of district leaders providing teachers with the tools and training they need to succeed." A copy of the press release is attached.

Results for FCAT 2.0 Reading, Mathematics, and Science for students in the remaining grades are scheduled to be released in early June. Complete District, State, and school summary reports will be provided as they become available and will also be posted on the FLDOE website. 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. Marie L. Izquierdo, Chief Academic Officer, Office of Academics and Transformation, at 305 995-1451, or Ms. Gisela Feild, Administrative Director, Assessment, Research, and Data Analysis, at 305 995-2943.

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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 2014 Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) 2.0
Grade 3

On May 23, 2014, the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) released District and State summary data from the Spring 2014 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.

In 2011, 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).

Beginning in Spring 2012, students' FCAT 2.0 results have been reported as developmental scale scores which can range from 140 to 302 across Grades 3-10 for FCAT 2.0 Reading and from 140 to 298 across Grades 3-8 for FCAT 2.0 Mathematics. In addition, Achievement Levels are reported which can range from Level 1 (low) to Level 5 (high); 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.

The tables included in this summary include percent of students scoring in Achievement Levels 1, 2, and 3-5 in Reading and Mathematics in Miami-Dade and other large districts in the State.

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, 2013 and 2014

	DISTRICT			STATE		
	2013	2014	Difference 2013- 2014	2013	2014	Difference 2013- 2014
READING						
<i>Number tested:</i>	26,711	27,111		205,984	209,852	
Level 1	22	22	0	18	19	+1
Level 2	25	23	-2	25	24	-1
Levels 3-5	53	56	+3	57	57	0
MATHEMATICS						
<i>Number tested:</i>	26,711	27,105		205,717	209,724	
Level 1	17	17	0	18	18	0
Level 2	21	21	0	24	24	0
Level 3-5	62	62	0	58	58	0

Note: Achievement levels range from Level 1 (lowest) to Level 5 (highest). 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 and Selected Districts, 2014

	Miami-Dade	Broward	Duval	Hillsborough	Orange	Palm Beach
READING						
<i>Number tested:</i>	27,111	20,434	10,268	15,726	14,645	14,404
Level 1	22	20	22	17	19	21
Level 2	23	23	28	25	25	24
Level 3-5	56	57	51	59	56	55
MATHEMATICS						
<i>Number tested:</i>	27,105	20,386	10,259	15,742	14,647	14,392
Level 1	17	20	20	20	18	19
Level 2	21	24	23	24	23	24
Level 3-5	62	56	57	56	58	57

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
PRESS OFFICE
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MIAMI-DADE, BROWARD MAKE STEADY IMPROVEMENTS ON FCAT 2.0 WRITING AND THIRD GRADE READING AND MATH

MIAMI, Fla., May 23, 2014 – Today, Commissioner of Education Pam Stewart congratulated teachers and educators in Miami-Dade and Broward counties for impressive gains in FCAT 2.0 results.

“These impressive gains are the result of district leaders providing teachers with the tools and training they need to succeed,” said Commissioner Stewart. “I am confident that with new standards and assessments next year replacing the FCAT, our students will continue to succeed.”

- While the state’s performance in Grade 3 Reading remained unchanged from 2013, both **Miami-Dade** and **Broward** counties were up 3 percentage points
- **Miami-Dade** improved from 53 percent scoring Level 3 and above in 2013 to 56 percent.
- **Broward** improved from 54 percent scoring Level 3 and above in 2013 to 57 percent.
- While the state improved by 2 percentage points in Grade 8 Writing, both **Miami-Dade** and **Broward** counties were up 4 percentage points.
- **Miami-Dade** improved from 49 percent scoring Level 3.5 and above in 2013 to 53 percent.
- **Broward** improved from 60 percent scoring Level 3.5 and above in 2013 to 64 percent.

Florida’s recent academic gains have received national attention. The Sunshine State jumped from 11th to 6th in the nation for educational quality in 2013. Florida has the highest graduation rate in the nation for Hispanic students. In the past decade, the number of Florida graduates participating in AP courses has more than doubled, and the number of low-income graduates taking AP courses has increased tenfold. And Florida’s graduation rate is 75.6% for 2012-13 – an increase of 1.1 percentage points over the prior year and up five percentage points since 2010-11.

Next year, a new assessment based on the Florida Standards will replace the FCAT 2.0. The Florida Standards for mathematics and English language arts stress a broader approach for student learning, including an increased emphasis on analytical thinking. With the new and more rigorous standards, a new assessment was needed to measure student progress.

For more information on third grade reading requirements, visit [Read to Learn](#).

The 2014 FCAT 2.0 Writing and third grade FCAT 2.0 Reading and Mathematics results are available at [2014 Statewide Assessment Scores](#).

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For more information about the Florida Department of Education, visit www.fldoe.org.