

## MEMORANDUM

May 9, 2014

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

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

**SUBJECT: STATE RELEASE OF INITIAL RESULTS FOR THE SPRING 2014 FLORIDA COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT TEST 2.0 (FCAT 2.0): READING RETAKE**

Today, the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) released the first round of results from the Spring 2014 administration of the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test 2.0 (FCAT 2.0). Specifically, results were released for FCAT 2.0 Reading for students in grades 11-12 who participated in this administration because they had not yet passed the Reading test required for graduation. The state has released these results in advance of the remaining grade levels to facilitate graduation decisions.

The FCAT 2.0 Reading Retake addresses the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards and is scheduled for administration through spring of 2016. Students may also participate in the ACT or SAT to achieve concordant scores in reading for high school graduation purposes.

Overall, 14,110 Miami-Dade County Public Schools' (M-DCPS) students in grades 11 and 12 participated in the Reading 2.0 Retake administration. The number of students tested by grade level may be found on the attached table, along with a summary of state and District results.

The following are highlights of the results:

- For the first time, the FCAT 2.0 Reading Retake passing rates in M-DCPS equaled those of the state; and
- The FCAT 2.0 Reading Retake passing scores for M-DCPS improved at a rate higher than those of the state.

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/2014/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 of Staff, Superintendent's Office, at 305 995-1206, 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  
Ms. Gisela Feild

**Summary of District and State Results for the  
Spring 2014 Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT/FCAT 2.0)  
Reading and Mathematics Retake: Grades 11 – 12**

On May 9, 2014, the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) released data from the Spring 2014 administration of the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT/FCAT 2.0) Reading and Mathematics Retake tests. The table that follows provides summary of the data for students in grades 11 and 12 for Reading Retake graduation test results. Fewer than 120 students Districtwide participated in the FCAT Mathematics Retake, therefore results have not been included.

All Florida public school students are required to pass specific tests to meet high school graduation requirements. Students must pass the 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. The FCAT Mathematics Retake remains the only FCAT Sunshine State Standards (SSS) assessment still in use. It was scheduled to be discontinued after spring 2013, but the administration was extended through spring of 2015 on behalf of the approximately 10,000 remaining students still required to pass the FCAT Mathematics Retake as a graduation requirement in the state. The FCAT 2.0 Reading Retake addresses the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards (NGSSS) and is currently scheduled for administration through spring of 2016.

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 NGSSS Reading Retake test and the FCAT SSS Mathematics Retake were administered in spring 2014. Students who do not achieve a passing score on the FCAT 2.0 Reading Retake or 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 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 2014 FCAT administration was the last opportunity for current grade 12 students to pass the 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 may 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 2013 through 2014. 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 2.0 Reading Retake. It should be noted that FCAT Mathematics Retake scores are not reported due to less than 120 students' tested Districtwide.

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, 2013 and 2014**  
**Number Tested, Percentage of Enrolled Students Tested, and Passing Rates**

READING		DISTRICT			STATE		
		Number Tested	Percentage of Enrolled Students Tested*	Passing Rate	Number Tested	Percentage of Enrolled Students Tested*	Passing Rate
Grade 11	2013	9,485	37	22	62,429	32	24
	2014	9,316	35	26	62,050	31	26
Grade 12*	2013	4,125	17	16	23,182	13	17
	2014	4,794	19	20	28,004	15	20

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