

## MEMORANDUM

June 12, 2015

**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 RESULTS FOR THE SPRING 2015 NEXT GENERATION SUNSHINE STATE STANDARDS (NGSSS) END-OF-COURSE (EOC) ASSESSMENTS AND FLORIDA COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT TEST (FCAT) 2.0 SCIENCE**

Today the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) released results from the Spring 2015 administration of the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards (NGSSS) Biology 1, Civics, and United States (U.S.) History End-of-Course (EOC) assessments and the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) 2.0 Science in grades 5 and 8. These assessments measure students' mastery of the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards as outlined in the course descriptions for the NGSSS EOCs and with regard to grade-level content for grade 5 and 8 Science.

Florida transitioned from traditional comprehensive assessments at the high school level (i.e., the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test) to End-of-Course assessments that specifically target content in high school courses. The first NGSSS EOC in this series was administered in the 2010-2011 school year to students enrolled in Algebra 1, followed by Biology 1 and Geometry in the 2011-2012 school year, U.S. History in 2012-2013, and Civics in 2013-2014. This year, the state of Florida is transitioning from the NGSSS to new Florida Standards Assessments (FSA) in mathematics, but the NGSSS EOCs in science (Biology 1) and social studies (Civics and U.S. History) remain.

NGSSS Biology 1, Civics, and U.S. History results are presented in terms of scaled scores, which can range from 325 to 475, and Achievement Levels, which range from 1 (low) to 5 (high). FCAT 2.0 Science results are also reported using Achievement Levels (1 to 5) and scale scores which can range from 140 to 260 in both grade 5 and grade 8. Level 3 indicates satisfactory performance.

In Spring 2015, 27,980 M-DCPS students took the NGSSS Biology 1 EOC; 25,730 took NGSSS Civics; 23,330 took NGSSS US History; and 49,053 students in Grades 5 and 8 took FCAT 2.0 Science.

In Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS), District and state results are provided as an attachment, including the highlights that follow.

### EOCs

- In U.S. History, the percentage of M-DCPS students scoring in Levels 3 and above increased by two percentage points, compared to a one point growth statewide.

- In the first year that Levels were assigned to students taking the Civics EOC, 61% districtwide scored in Levels 3 or above.
- A slight decline in the Biology EOC scores was seen across the state, including in Miami-Dade County.

### **Science**

- Slight declines in Science scores for students in grades 5 and 8 were seen statewide and in the M-DCPS.

The FLDOE issued a press release this afternoon, congratulating M-DCPS on the improved student performance in Civics and U.S. History. A copy of the press release is attached.

Results for the new Florida Standards Assessments (FSA) English Language Arts (ELA) in grades 3-10, FSA Mathematics in grades 3-8, and FSA EOCs will be provided as soon as they become available. Complete District, state, and school summary reports will also be made available at <http://oada.dadeschools.net/>. 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. Marie 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

**Summary of District and State Results for the  
Spring 2015 Next Generation Sunshine State Standards (NGSSS)  
End-of-Course (EOC) Assessments and  
Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT 2.0) Science**

On June 12, 2015, the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) released school, District, and state summary data from the Spring 2015 administration of Next Generation Sunshine State Standards (NGSSS) End-of-Course (EOC) assessments in Biology 1, Civics, and United States (U.S.) History, and the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT 2.0) Science in grades 5 and 8. The tables that follow provide a summary of the data for students in grades 7 through 12 who participated in EOC assessments and grades 5 and 8 who participated in FCAT 2.0 Science.

### **End of Course Assessments**

The FLDOE has transitioned from comprehensive, grade-level specific assessments in high school to course-specific EOC assessments in selected mathematics, science, and social studies courses. The first course to transition to EOC testing in Florida was Algebra 1, administered for the first time in 2010-2011, followed by Geometry and Biology 1 in 2011-2012, U.S. History in 2012-2013 and Civics in 2013-2014. This year, the state of Florida is transitioning from the NGSSS to new Florida Standards Assessments (FSA) in mathematics, but the NGSSS EOCs in science (Biology 1) and social studies (Civics and U.S. History) remain. Test results for the new FSA EOCs will be reported after September 1, 2015, when a psychometric validity study is completed, as mandated in House Bill 7069.

The EOC assessments measure student achievement of the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards and Florida Standards, as outlined in the associated course descriptions. EOC assessments are delivered via a computer-based testing (CBT) platform, except to students with allowable accommodations documented on a current Individual Education Plan (IEP) or Section 504 Plan. Paper-based tests (regular, large print, one-item-per-page, and Braille) are available for eligible students with documented disabilities.

Please note that the EOC assessments are NOT census administrations for a particular grade level. All students enrolled in one of the targeted courses, or an equivalent, must participate in the EOC administration, regardless of the students' grade level. As such, accelerated middle school students participate, as well as senior high students. Thus, the number of students tested can vary from grade to grade, year to year, and school to school.

Test results for the Biology 1, Civics, and U.S. History are reported using developmental scale scores which can range from 325 to 475. Level 3 is an indicator of satisfactory performance. All NGSSS EOC results must be included as 30 percent of the final course grade this school year. Summaries of the results for Biology 1, Civics, and U.S. History are presented in Tables 1 through 3 by grade level.

## **FCAT 2.0 Science**

The FCAT 2.0 Science for students in grades 5 and 8 are paper-based assessments. All students at these grade levels are required to take the assessments, except for accelerated students who are currently enrolled in Biology 1; those students would take the NGSSS EOC in Biology instead.

FCAT 2.0 Science results are reported using scale scores which can range from 140 to 260 in both grades 5 and 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).

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 Science in Table 4.

**Table 1**  
**Biology 1 End-of-Course Assessment:**  
**District and State, 2014 and 2015**  
**Mean Scale Score and Percentages Scoring at Each Achievement Level, by Grade**

Biology 1	Number Tested	Mean Scale Score	Percentages at Each Achievement Level					Levels 3-5		Difference 2014 to 2015
			1	2	3	4	5	2014	2015	
<b>District</b>										
Grade 8	3,176	419	2	10	39	19	30	95	88	-7
Grade 9	8,310	414	4	13	42	18	23	85	83	-2
Grade 10	16,094	391	21	31	34	8	6	53	48	-5
Grade 11	283	403	20	22	21	11	26	51	58	7
Grade 12	100	380	40	29	19	5	7	54	31	-23
Total	27,980	401	14	23	37	12	14	66	63	-3
<b>State</b>										
Grade 8	6,406	422	2	8	35	19	35	94	90	-4
Grade 9	91,980	412	6	16	38	17	24	80	79	-1
Grade 10	89,454	394	17	31	36	8	7	56	52	-4
Grade 11	7,806	391	22	31	31	8	7	48	47	-1
Grade 12	1,567	386	28	31	28	7	7	48	41	-7
Total	197,297	403	12	23	37	13	16	68	65	-3

*Note:* The totals include a small number of students in grades 7 and adult. Results include all students, including students with disabilities and English language learners.

**Table 2**  
**Civics End-of-Course Assessment:**  
**District and State, 2015**  
**Mean Scale Score and Percentages Scoring at Each Achievement Level, by Grade**

Civics	Number Tested	Mean Scale Score	Percentages at Each Achievement Level					Levels 3-5
			1	2	3	4	5	
<b>District</b>								
Grade 7	25,609	401	19	20	25	19	18	61
Grade 8	101	382	45	22	15	6	13	34
Total	25,730	400	19	20	25	19	18	61
<b>State</b>								
Grade 7	191,952	403	16	19	26	20	18	65
Grade 8	3,181	400	21	19	24	17	20	60
Total	195,669	402	16	19	26	20	18	65

*Note:* The totals include a small number of students in grades 6 and 9. Results include all students, including students with disabilities and English language learners.

**Table 3**  
**United States (U.S.) History End-of-Course Assessment:**  
**District and State, 2014 and 2015**  
**Mean Scale Score and Percentages Scoring at Each Achievement Level, by Grade**

US History	Number Tested	Mean Scale Score	Percentages at Each Achievement Level					Levels 3-5		Difference 2014 to 2015
			1	2	3	4	5	2014	2015	
<b>District</b>										
Grade 10	563	389	35	23	27	11	4	40	42	2
Grade 11	22,054	402	21	21	25	17	16	58	59	1
Grade 12	653	415	18	10	17	19	37	59	72	13
Total	23,330	402	21	20	25	17	17	57	59	2
<b>State</b>										
Grade 10	14,413	405	17	20	28	18	17	62	63	1
Grade 11	140,829	407	14	19	27	20	19	66	67	1
Grade 12	5,426	403	21	19	24	18	19	62	61	-1
Total	162,437	407	15	19	27	20	19	65	66	1

*Note:* The totals include a small number of students in grade 9 and adult. Results include all students, including students with disabilities and English language learners

**Table 4**  
**FCAT 2.0 Science**  
**District and State: 2014 and 2015**  
**Percentages of Students Scoring in Achievement Levels 1, 2, and 3-5, by Grade**

SCIENCE	Number Tested		Level 1		Level 2		Levels 3-5		Diff. 14-15		
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015			
<b>GRADE 5</b>											
District	25,638	25,411	24	25	1	26	26	0	51	49	-2
State	195,645	198,519	21	22	1	25	25	0	54	53	-1
<b>GRADE 8</b>											
District	25,010	23,642	26	26	0	30	33	3	44	41	-3
State	197,210	196,521	21	22	1	30	30	0	49	48	-1

*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.





# Commissioner Stewart Commends South Florida Districts for Improving Student Performance on Statewide Assessments

June 12, 2015

DOE Press Office  
850-245-0413

## Commissioner Stewart Commends South Florida Districts for Improving Student Performance on Statewide Assessments

*~ Middle grades students statewide are excelling in Biology 1 ~*

**Tallahassee, Fla.**, June 12, 2015 - Commissioner of Education Pam Stewart today highlighted South Florida school districts' student performance improvement over last year on statewide assessments for Civics, U.S. History, Biology 1 and grades 5 and 8 Science. Overall, the percentage of students earning a passing score has increased for all four subject areas since each assessment was first administered. Performance on the U.S. History end-of-course assessment has increased 10 percentage points since its inception and performance on the Biology 1 end-of-course assessment has increased 6 percentage points since its inception.

"I am incredibly proud of the students who worked hard all year to gain the knowledge they need to thrive succeed, as well as the teachers whose commitment to educating our state's students is evident through these results," said Commissioner Stewart.

- **Broward County** middle grades students increased the percentage of students passing the Civics end-of-course assessment by 3 percentage points. Grade 5 students increased the percentage of students passing the statewide science assessment by 1 percentage point, outperforming the statewide science results.
- **Miami-Dade County** middle grades students increased the percentage of students passing the Civics end-of-course assessment by 5 percentage points, outperforming the

statewide Civics results. In U.S. History, Miami-Dade county students increased the percentage of students passing by 1 percentage point, outperforming the statewide results.

- **Monroe County** middle grades students increased the percentage of students passing the Civics end-of-course assessment by 7 percentage points, outperforming the statewide Civics results. In grade 5 science, Monroe County students increased the percentage of students passing by 1 percentage point, outperforming the statewide results.

Across the state, middle grades students who took the high school level Biology 1 end-of-course assessment made significant achievements:

- Middle grades students performed at high levels on the Biology 1 end-of-course assessment with 90 percent of students passing.
- African-American middle grades students have made significant increases since 2012 on the Biology 1 end-of-course assessment, increasing their percent passing by 10 percentage points from 75 percent in 2012 to 85 percent in 2015.
- From 2012 to 2015, the number of African-American middle grades students participating in the Biology 1 end-of-course assessment increased 314 percent (from 261 students in 2012 to 1,080 students in 2015).
- From 2012 to 2015 the number of African-American and Hispanic middle grades students participating in the Biology 1 end-of-course assessment increased by 260 percent (from 1,165 in 2012 to 4,196 in 2015).

Each of the end-of-course assessments have been administered on computer since their inception, with Civics since 2014; U.S. History since 2013; and Biology 1 since 2012. The statewide science assessment in grades 5 and 8 continues to be administered on paper.

Compared to last year, the percentage of students who passed Civics increased by 4 points and U.S. History remained steady. The percentage of students who passed grades 5 and 8 Science dropped by 1 point and the percentage of students who passed Biology 1 dipped 3 points.

Commissioner Pam Stewart added, "I am encouraged by the statewide improvement students achieved in Civics. I have already begun working with Department staff members to determine how we can best support our state's educators and parents who work closely to help prepare their students, including raising awareness about the existing educator and family resources, as well as the development of new materials to help ensure students learn the standard."

The Florida Department of Education currently offers a wide variety of tools and resources that teachers and students can use to help students master the standards. Florida's new student tutorial and resources site includes 1,600 lesson plans on these subject areas, as

well as tutorials, presentations and other resources to help students and their families gauge their understanding of the standards on which they will be tested. To learn more about this valuable resource, visit <http://www.cpalms.org/>.

The 2015 statewide assessment results for Civics, U.S. History, Biology 1 and grades 5 and 8 Science are available at <http://www.fldoe.org/accountability/assessments/k-12-student-assessment/results/2015.stml>.

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