


MEMORANDUM

June 10, 2016

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

FROM: Alberto M. Carvalho, Superintendent of Schools 

SUBJECT: STATE RELEASE OF RESULTS FOR THE SPRING 2016 FLORIDA COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT TEST (FCAT) 2.0 SCIENCE AND NEXT GENERATION SUNSHINE STATE STANDARDS (NGSSS) END-OF-COURSE (EOC) ASSESSMENTS

Today the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) released results from the Spring 2016 administration of the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) 2.0 Science in grades 5 and 8, and the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards (NGSSS) Biology 1, Civics, and United States (US) History End-of-Course (EOC) assessments. These assessments measure students' mastery of the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards as outlined in the corresponding course descriptions.

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. Last year, the state of Florida transitioned 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.

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

In Spring 2016, 25,502 students in Grades 5, and 22,659 in Grade 8 took FCAT 2.0 Science; 27,465 Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) students took the NGSSS Biology 1 EOC; 26,129 took NGSSS Civics; 23,060 took NGSSS US History.

In M-DCPS, District and state results are provided as an attachment, including the highlights that follow.

Science

- M-DCPS students continue to improve on the 2016 FCAT 2.0 Science assessment.
- M-DCPS' increases in Grades 5 and 8 also outpaced other large districts, including Broward, Hillsborough, Palm Beach, and Orange Counties.

- The percentage of M-DCPS 5th and 8th Grade students scoring 3 or above in science increased by one percentage point from 2015 to 2016 outpacing the State.

NGSSS EOCs

- M-DCPS students improved on both NGSSS Social Studies End-of-Course Assessments in 2016.
- In Biology, students' scores declined statewide, including those in M-DCPS.
- In Civics, the percentage of District students scoring 3 or above increased by three percentage points from 2015 to 2016, as compared to an increase of two percentage points statewide.
- While scores statewide remained stable in U.S. History, the percentage of students scoring 3 or above in Miami-Dade increased by one percentage point.

Remaining results for the statewide standardized assessment programs 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 2016 Next Generation Sunshine State Standards (NGSSS)
Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT 2.0) Science and
End-of-Course (EOC) Assessments**

On June 10, 2016, the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) released school, District, and state summary data from the Spring 2016 administration of the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT 2.0) Science in grades 5 and 8 and the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards (NGSSS) End-of-Course (EOC) assessments in Biology 1, Civics, and United States (U.S.) History. The tables that follow provide a summary of the data for students in grades 7 through 12 who participated in these assessments.

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 instead take the NGSSS EOC in Biology.

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 1.

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. Last year, the state of Florida transitioned from the NGSSS to the 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 FSA Algebra 1, Algebra 2, and Geometry EOC assessments will be reported within the coming weeks.

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. Summaries of the results for Biology 1, Civics, and U.S. History are presented in Tables 2 through 4, by grade level.

Table 1
FCAT 2.0 Science
District and State: 2015 and 2016
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. 15-16
	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	
GRADE 5									
District	25,411	25,502	25	25	26	26	49	50	+1
State	198,519	202,655	22	23	25	26	53	51	-2
GRADE 8									
District	23,642	22,659	26	25	33	33	41	42	+1
State	196,521	190,668	22	21	30	30	48	48	0

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.

Table 2
Biology 1 End-of-Course Assessment:
District and State, 2015 and 2016
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 2015 to 2016
			1	2	3	4	5	2015	2016	
District										
Grade 8	3,545	420	2	9	39	19	31	88	89	+1
Grade 9	7,647	413	4	14	42	17	22	83	82	-1
Grade 10	15,837	389	22	33	33	7	6	48	45	-3
Grade 11	315	397	25	25	21	8	21	58	50	-8
Grade 12	105	375	40	32	21	6	1	31	28	-3
Total	27,465	400	14	25	36	11	13	63	61	-2
State										
Grade 8	8,019	423	2	8	34	19	38	90	91	+1
Grade 9	92,846	411	7	17	37	15	24	79	76	-3
Grade 10	86,117	393	17	32	35	8	7	52	51	-1
Grade 11	8,730	388	23	34	31	6	6	47	43	-4
Grade 12	1,702	385	29	32	27	5	6	41	39	-2
Total	197,663	403	12	24	36	12	16	65	64	-1

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 3
Civics End-of-Course Assessment:
District and State, 2015 and 2016
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		Difference 2015 to 2016
			1	2	3	4	5	2015	2016	
District										
Grade 7	25,925	401	18	18	27	19	17	61	64	+3
Grade 8	197	387	37	22	21	11	9	34	41	+7
Total	26,129	401	18	18	27	19	17	61	64	+3
State										
Grade 7	191,408	404	15	18	27	20	20	65	68	+3
Grade 8	5,753	399	22	19	22	17	19	60	59	-1
Total	197,966	404	15	18	27	20	20	65	67	+2

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

Table 4
United States (U.S.) History End-of-Course Assessment:
District and State, 2015 and 2016
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 2015 to 2016
			1	2	3	4	5	2015	2016	
District										
Grade 10	492	393	33	18	23	15	11	42	49	+7
Grade 11	22,196	403	19	20	26	18	17	59	61	+2
Grade 12	325	396	28	24	21	15	12	72	48	-24
Total	23,060	403	20	20	26	18	17	59	60	+1
State										
Grade 10	15,019	404	18	19	27	19	16	63	63	0
Grade 11	146,197	407	15	19	27	20	19	67	67	0
Grade 12	5,629	400	23	21	25	17	14	61	56	-5
Total	168,914	407	15	19	27	20	19	66	66	0

Note: The totals include a small number of students in grades 8 and 9 and adult. Results include all students, including students with disabilities and English language learners