


MEMORANDUM

April 25, 2007

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

FROM: Rudolph F. Crew, Superintendent of Schools 

SUBJECT: STATE RELEASE OF THE SPRING 2007 FLORIDA COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT TEST (FCAT) WRITING+, GRADES 4, 8, AND 10 RESULTS

Today the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) released results from the Spring 2007 Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) Writing+, administered to students in Grades 4, 8, and 10. The FCAT Writing+ reports released today provide summary data based on the scores of all students tested; **these are not the scores that will be used for accountability purposes.**

The FCAT Writing+ includes an essay and a multiple-choice portion. The 2007 FCAT Writing+ scores include a whole-test total scale score and a separate "rubric" score for the essay portion. Only the essay rubric score will be used in the calculation of school grades. The 2007 administration is the first one for which Writing+ achievement levels will be reported; these will be based on the whole-test total scale score.

Nearly 79,000 Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) students in Grades 4, 8, and 10 participated in this assessment. Overall, M-DCPS students' gains on the essay portion of the assessment from 2006 to 2007 outpaced those of students in the state in grades 8 and 10, with average scores that, for the first time, matched the state's in all three grade levels. With regard to total scale scores, which include both the essay and multiple choice portions, gains were seen in Grades 4 and 10 at both the state and district levels, with declines in Grade 8. Highlights of the results and district summary tables are attached.

Complete district, state, and school level summary reports are available online at: <http://oada.dadeschools.net/SAET/FCAT.asp>. Printed school and individual student reports for the Spring 2007 FCAT Writing+ assessment will be forwarded to schools as soon as they are received. The individual student reports will be distributed to parents as soon as they are available.

Additional reports of FCAT results will be released, as they are available, in the next couple of weeks. School performance grades are expected in early June.

Should you have any questions about the attached results, please contact Ms. Antoinette Dunbar, Deputy Superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction, at 305-995-1451, 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 Senior Staff

**Highlights of the Florida Department of Education's
Spring 2007 Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test Summary Report
for Miami-Dade County
Grades 4, 8, and 10 FCAT Writing+**

- For the first time, M-DCPS students achieved the state averages in all grades tested on the essay portion of Writing+.
- From 2006 to 2007, the average combined essay scores increased for M-DCPS students in Grades 8 and 10, and remained stable for those in Grade 4.
- The increase in the percentage of M-DCPS students scoring 3.5 or above on the essay portion met or exceeded that of the state at all three grades tested.
- The percentage of M-DCPS students in Grade 4 scoring 3.5 or above on the essay portion exceeded that of Grade 4 students statewide.
- The percentages of students in the state in Grades 8 and 10 scoring 3.5 or above on the essay portion exceeded those of district students.
- The average Writing+ total scale scores, which are based on both the essay portion and multiple choice items, increased from 2006 to 2007 for both state and district students in Grades 4 and 10, but declined for those in Grade 8.
- Achievement levels, based on students' total scale scores, are provided for the first time in 2007, and a slightly higher percentage of M-DCPS Grade 4 students scored at Levels 3 and above than did students statewide.
- Somewhat lower percentages of M-DCPS students in Grades 8 and 10 scored in the higher achievement levels than did their counterparts statewide.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Summary of District and State Results for the
Spring 2007 Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT)
Grades 4, 8, and 10 FCAT Writing+

On April 25, 2007, the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) released state and district summary data from the Spring 2007 administration of the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) Florida Writing+ assessment. The summary data include results for all students in the tested grades: 4, 8, and 10.

District Spring 2007 FCAT Writing+ results are based on the total number of students tested, as follows: 25,695 in Grade 4, 26,059 in Grade 8, and 27,075 in Grade 10, for a total of 78,829, including students from all curriculum groups. The number tested in 2007 represents approximately a 2% decrease in the population of students tested from 80,220 in 2006.

This is the second year in which FCAT Writing+ has included both essay and multiple-choice portions, and the first for which total scale scores are reported that include both portions. Reported scores for the Spring 2007 FCAT Writing+ include: a total scale score for both portions of the test, which can range from 100 to 500; points earned out of the total possible points on the multiple-choice portion in the areas of focus, organization, support, and conventions; and a traditional "rubric" score for the essay portion, which can range from 1 to 6. In addition, the report includes information on the percentage of students scoring at each of the five FCAT Writing+ Achievement Levels.

Table 1
FCAT Writing+
State and District, 2006 and 2007
Mean Total Scale Scores

	STATE			DISTRICT		
	2006 Mean Scale Score (N)	2007 Mean Scale Score (N)	Difference 2006 - 2007	2006 Mean Scale Score (N)	2007 Mean Scale Score (N)	Difference 2006 - 2007
Grade 4	296 (189,589)	302 (193,796)	+6	299 (25,870)	304 (25,695)	+5
Grade 8	295 (198,247)	291 (196,771)	-4	285 (26,755)	279 (26,059)	-6
Grade 10	295 (187,939)	296 (187,743)	+1	282 (27,595)	284 (27,075)	+2

Note. Results include all students tested, including students with disabilities and limited English proficient students.

**Table 2
FCAT Writing+
State and District, 2007
Percentages Scoring in Achievement Levels 1 through 5**

	STATE						DISTRICT					
	Percent Level 1	Percent Level 2	Percent Level 3	Percent Level 4	Percent Level 5	Percent 3 and above	Percent Level 1	Percent Level 2	Percent Level 3	Percent Level 4	Percent Level 5	Percent 3 and above
Grade 4	17	23	43	14	3	60	16	22	44	15	3	61
Grade 8	27	28	26	14	5	45	33	28	24	12	3	39
Grade 10	23	28	24	18	6	49	29	29	22	15	5	41

Note. Results include all students tested, including students with disabilities and limited English proficient students.

**Table 3
FCAT Writing+
State and District, 2005, 2006 and 2007
Mean Essay Scores**

	STATE				DISTRICT			
	2005 Mean Essay Score (N)	2006 Mean Essay Score (N)	2007 Mean Essay Score (N)	Difference 2006 - 2007	2005 Mean Essay Score (N)	2006 Mean Essay Score (N)	2007 Mean Essay Score (N)	Difference 2006 - 2007
Grade 4	3.7 (194,661)	3.9 (189,589)	3.9 (193,796)	0	3.8 (26,594)	3.9 (25,870)	3.9 (25,695)	0
Grade 8	3.8 (200,457)	4.0 (198,247)	4.1 (196,771)	+ .1	3.7 (28,540)	3.9 (26,755)	4.1 (26,059)	+ .2
Grade 10	3.8 (183,463)	3.9 (187,939)	3.9 (187,743)	0	3.8 (28,194)	3.8 (27,595)	3.9 (27,075)	+ .1

Note: Essay scores can range from 1 to 6. Results include all students tested, including students with disabilities and limited English proficient students.

Two types of prompts are used at each grade level, although each student is tested on only one prompt. Prompt types are: Expository and Narrative at Grade 4; and Expository and Persuasive at Grades 8 and 10. Following is a summary of the average essay scores in M-DCPS by prompt type.

**Table 4
FCAT Writing+
District 2005, 2006 and 2007
Mean Essay Scores by Prompt Type**

	EXPOSITORY				NARRATIVE			
	2005	2006	2007	Difference 2006 - 2007	2005	2006	2007	Difference 2006 - 2007
Grade 4	3.8	4.1	3.9	-.2	3.8	3.7	3.8	+.1
	EXPOSITORY				PERSUASIVE			
	2005	2006	2007	Difference 2006 - 2007	2005	2006	2007	Difference 2006 - 2007
Grade 8	3.7	3.9	4.0	+.1	3.6	3.9	4.1	+.2
Grade 10	3.7	3.8	3.7	-.1	3.9	3.7	3.9	+.2

Note: Results include all students tested, including students with disabilities and limited English proficient students.

**Table 5
FCAT Writing+
State and District, 2005, 2006 and 2007
Percentages of Students Scoring 3.5 and Above on the Essay Portion**

	STATE				DISTRICT			
	2005	2006	2007	Difference 2006 - 2007	2005	2006	2007	Difference 2006 - 2007
Grade 4	74%	76%	78%	+2	80%	80%	82%	+2
Grade 8	76%	83%	86%	+3	73%	81%	84%	+3
Grade 10	79%	78%	79%	+1	79%	74%	77%	+3

Note: Results include all students tested, including students with disabilities and limited English proficient students.