


MEMORANDUM

May 23, 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) SUNSHINE STATE STANDARDS (SSS) READING, MATHEMATICS, AND SCIENCE RESULTS FOR GRADES 3-11

Today the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) released results from the Spring 2007 administration of the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) Sunshine State Standards (SSS) Reading, Mathematics, and Science assessments. Specifically, district-wide and school-level summary reports were provided for students in Grades 3 through 10 in reading and mathematics, and for students in Grades 5, 8, and 11 in science. It should be noted that these summary scores include **all students tested and do not represent the groupings that will be used by the state for accountability purposes.**

Overall, more than 231,600 students in the Miami-Dade County Public Schools (MDCPS) participated in the Spring 2007 FCAT administration. Generally, the performance of district students paralleled that of state students. Reading^a and mathematics results were mixed across grade levels, while the science results showed significant improvement across all three grade levels tested. Highlights of the MDCPS students' results and summary tables providing a comparison of state and district results are provided as attachments to this memorandum.

Complete district, state, and school-level summary reports are available online at: <http://oada.dadeschools.net/SAET/FCAT.asp>. Additional reports of district and school-level trends as well as disaggregated reports by curriculum group and demographic characteristics will be transmitted to the Board and posted online as they become available. School shipments of individual student reports are being forwarded to schools as they are received. In addition, parents may access their child(ren)'s results using unique passwords via the FCAT Parent Network at www.fcatparentnetwork.com. The FLDOE will release the 2007 School Performance Grades in June 2007.

^a Note. The Florida Department of Education has identified an error in the equating process used in 2006 to score the Grade 3 FCAT SSS Reading assessment, which impacts the reported scores for 2006. Revised results will be provided to districts as soon as they are available. The revised values will impact the gains and/or declines observed from 2006 to 2007, and an updated report reflecting the changes will be provided.

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 Summary Report for Miami-Dade County***

***Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT)
Sunshine State Standards (SSS)
Grades 3^a through 11***

OVERALL

- The performance of students in the Miami-Dade Public Schools on the 2007 FCAT SSS Reading, Mathematics, and Science tests followed the same general trends as those of students statewide.
- When comparing the performance of students enrolled in 2007 to those enrolled at the same grade levels in 2006, MDCPS student performance improved across the board in science, and was mixed in reading and mathematics.
 - In science, the percentages of the students scoring in the higher achievement levels increased at all three grades tested (Grades 5, 8, and 11) from 2006 to 2007.
 - In mathematics, the percentage of students in elementary (Grades 3 – 5), middle (Grades 6 – 8), and senior high (Grades 9 – 10) scoring in the higher achievement levels increased from 2006 to 2007.
 - In reading, the percentage of students in middle (Grades 6 – 8) and senior high (Grades 9 – 10) scoring in the higher achievement levels remained stable from 2006 to 2007, while that of students in elementary (Grades 3 – 5) declined slightly.
- In the School Improvement Zone, the percentages of the students in the higher achievement levels increased in both reading and mathematics from 2006 to 2007 across all grade levels, 3 through 10.
- The percentage of students in Grade 10 who passed the FCAT graduation test in mathematics on their first attempt remained at 71%, while the percentage in reading decreased slightly from 2006 to 2007.

^a Note. The Florida Department of Education has identified an error in the equating process used in 2006 to score the Grade 3 FCAT SSS Reading assessment, which impacts the reported scores for 2006. Revised results will be provided to districts as soon as they are available. The revised values will impact the gains and/or declines observed from 2006 to 2007, and an updated report reflecting the changes will be provided.

READING

- In reading, the percentage of the district's students who scored in Achievement Levels 3 – 5 remained stable from 2006 to 2007, when combined across all grade levels, 3 through 10.
- By grade, the percentages of the district's students scoring in the higher achievement levels in reading increased in Grades 5, 7, and 9; remained stable in Grades 4, 8, and 10; but decreased in Grades 3 and 6.
 - Most notable was the performance of district students in Grade 7, whose gains in reading tripled those of students statewide.
- In the School Improvement Zone, the percentage of the students scoring in the higher achievement levels in reading increased slightly across grade levels, primarily for middle school students (Grades 6-8), with the performance of elementary students (Grades 3-5) and senior high (Grades 9-10) remaining stable.

MATHEMATICS

- In mathematics, the percentage of the district's students who scored in Achievement Levels 3 – 5 increased from 2006 to 2007. This held true when combined across all grade levels, and when examined by school level (elementary, Grades 3 – 5; middle, Grades 6 – 8; and senior high, Grades 9 – 10).
- The same was true of students in the School Improvement Zone. Increases in mathematics were seen in the overall percentage of the students scoring in the higher achievement levels across all grades, and when examined grouped by elementary, middle, and senior high grade levels.
- By grade, the percentages of the district's students scoring in the higher achievement levels in mathematics increased in six grades (Grades 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, and 9), and decreased in only two grades (Grades 6 and 10) from 2006 to 2007.
 - Notable gains in mathematics were also noted for district students in Grade 7, whose gains in mathematics outpaced those of students statewide.

SCIENCE

- In science, the percentages of the students scoring in the higher achievement levels increased at all three grades tested (Grades 5, 8, and 11) from 2006 to 2007.
 - Most notably, the percentages of Grade 8 students in the district and the state who scored in the higher achievement levels increased by 6 percent.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Summary of District and State Results for the
Spring 2007 Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT)
Sunshine State Standards (SSS)
Grades 3^a through 11

On May 23, 2007, the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) released data from the Spring 2007 administration of the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) Sunshine State Standards (SSS) Reading and Mathematics assessments for students in Grades 3 through 10, and the Science assessments for students in Grades 5, 8, and 11. The tables that follow provide summaries of these data.

The FCAT SSS is a criterion-referenced test, which measures students' mastery of grade level content as specified by the Sunshine State Standards. Results are usually reported in terms of achievement levels, which can range from Level 1 (low) to Level 5 (high), and are based on more precise scale scores. Note that the summary results presented are based on all students tested, including students with disabilities (SWD) and limited English proficient (LEP) students, and do not represent the groupings that will be used by the state for accountability purposes.

Section I: Reading, Mathematics, and Science

Summaries of the results by grade groupings (Grades 3-5, 6-8, and 9-10) are presented for the district and for schools in the School Improvement Zone, for reading in Table 1 and for mathematics in Table 2. The percentages of students scoring in Level 1, Level 2, and in Levels 3 – 5 are provided. Detailed results for the district and state are provided for reading, mathematics, and science in Tables 3, 4, and 5 respectively.

^a Note. The Florida Department of Education has identified an error in the equating process used in 2006 to score the Grade 3 FCAT SSS Reading assessment, which impacts the reported scores for 2006. Revised results will be provided to districts as soon as they are available. The revised values will impact the gains and/or declines observed from 2006 to 2007, and an updated report reflecting the changes will be provided.

Table 1
FCAT SSS Reading
District and School Improvement Zone, 2005, 2006, 2007
Summaries by Grade Groupings
Percentages of Students Scoring in Achievement Levels 1, 2, and 3 – 5,

READING	District Percent of All Students				School Improvement Zone Percent of All Students			
	2005	2006	2007	Diff. 06-07	2005	2006	2007	Diff. 06-07
GRADES 3-5								
Level 1	21	19*	20	+1*	36	32*	32	0*
Level 2	15	15*	15	0*	21	20*	20	0*
Levels 3 - 5	64	66*	64	-2*	43	48*	48	0*
GRADES 6-8								
Level 1	37	27	25	-2	55	45	41	-4
Level 2	23	22	24	+2	22	25	28	+3
Levels 3 - 5	40	51	51	0	23	30	31	+1
GRADES 9-10								
Level 1	48	42	42	0	68	64	63	-1
Level 2	26	28	28	0	22	23	25	+2
Levels 3 - 5	26	30	30	0	10	12	12	0
ALL GRADES 3-10								
Level 1	34	28*	28	0*	56	49*	47	-2*
Level 2	21	21*	22	+1*	22	24*	25	+1*
Levels 3 - 5	45	51*	51	0*	22	27*	28	+1*

Note. The summary of all grades includes Grade 10 students participating in the standard FCAT SSS administration, not the FCAT Retake. Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

* The Florida Department of Education will provide revised results from the Grade 3 2006 FCAT SSS Reading assessment, due to errors in the equating process. The indicated values may change as a result of the pending revisions.

Table 2
FCAT SSS Mathematics
District and School Improvement Zone, 2005, 2006, 2007
Summaries by Grade Groupings
Percentages of Students Scoring in Achievement Levels 1, 2, and 3 – 5,

MATHEMATICS	District Percent of All Students				School Improvement Zone Percent of All Students			
	2005	2006	2007	Diff. 06-07	2005	2006	2007	Diff. 06-07
GRADES 3-5								
Level 1	17	16	15	-1	32	27	22	-5
Level 2	22	21	21	0	29	27	28	+1
Levels 3 - 5	61	63	64	+1	39	46	50	+4
GRADES 6-8								
Level 1	34	29	27	-2	56	50	47	-3
Level 2	22	22	22	0	20	24	25	+1
Levels 3 - 5	44	49	51	+2	24	26	28	+2
GRADES 9-10								
Level 1	25	23	22	-1	42	39	38	-1
Level 2	24	24	25	+1	29	29	31	+2
Levels 3 - 5	51	53	54	+1	29	31	32	+1
ALL GRADES 3-10								
Level 1	26	22	21	-1	47	42	38	-4
Level 2	22	22	22	0	25	27	28	+1
Levels 3 - 5	52	55	57	+2	28	32	34	+2

Note. The summary of all grades includes Grade 10 students participating in the standard FCAT SSS administration, not the FCAT Retake. Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Table 3
FCAT SSS Reading
District and State, 2005, 2006, 2007
Percentages Students Scoring in Achievement Levels 1, 2, and 3-5, by Grade

READING	Number Tested			Level 1				Level 2				Levels 3 - 5			
	2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007	Diff. 06-07	2005	2006	2007	Diff. 06-07	2005	2006	2007	Diff. 06-07
GRADE 3															
District	29,885	28,744	27,812	25	18*	24	*	14	11*	14	*	61	71*	63	*
State	202,975	204,238	201,894	20	14*	19	*	13	11*	13	*	67	75*	69	*
GRADE 4															
District	26,741	26,315	26,049	17	20	21	+1	14	16	15	-1	69	64	64	0
State	195,678	192,480	196,512	15	19	18	-1	13	16	14	-2	71	66	68	+2
GRADE 5															
District	22,608	26,601	25,780	20	19	17	-2	16	17	17	0	64	64	66	+2
State	181,651	197,054	192,289	18	17	14	-3	16	16	15	-1	66	67	72	+5
GRADE 6															
District	27,137	23,062	26,172	35	22	24	+2	21	17	21	+4	44	62	55	-7
State	201,609	186,948	198,295	25	18	19	+1	20	17	19	+2	56	64	62	-2
GRADE 7															
District	27,796	27,314	23,109	37	26	21	-5	21	20	20	0	43	53	59	+6
State	202,520	202,438	188,700	27	19	17	-2	21	21	20	-1	53	61	63	+2
GRADE 8															
District	28,404	27,223	26,708	37	31	29	-2	29	29	30	+1	34	40	40	0
State	201,758	200,421	199,456	27	24	22	-2	30	30	29	-1	44	46	49	+3
GRADE 9															
District	30,615	30,108	28,198	46	39	37	-2	26	29	30	+1	28	32	33	+1
State	214,984	212,904	207,794	35	30	28	-2	28	30	31	+1	36	40	41	+1
GRADE 10															
District	26,519	25,955	25,637	50	45	47	+2	27	28	26	-2	23	27	27	0
State	179,354	185,568	186,048	39	38	39	+1	29	29	28	-1	32	32	34	+2

Note. Achievement Levels range from Level 1 (lowest) to Level 5 (highest). The summary of all grades includes Grade 10 students participating in the standard FCAT SSS administration, not the FCAT Retake. Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

* The Florida Department of Education will provide revised results from the Grade 3 2006 FCAT SSS Reading assessment, due to errors in the equating process. The indicated values will change as a result of the pending revisions.

Table 4
FCAT SSS Mathematics
District and State, 2005, 2006, 2007
Percentages Students Scoring in Achievement Levels 1, 2, and 3-5, by Grade

MATHEMATICS	Number Tested			Level 1				Level 2				Levels 3 - 5			
	2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007	Diff. 06-07	2005	2006	2007	Diff. 06-07	2005	2006	2007	Diff. 06-07
GRADE 3															
District	29,880	28,759	27,810	18	15	14	-1	18	16	16	0	63	69	70	+1
State	203,037	204,042	201,862	15	12	12	0	17	16	14	-2	68	72	74	+2
GRADE 4															
District	26,770	26,325	26,032	16	15	14	-1	22	20	19	-1	61	65	67	+2
State	195,866	192,610	196,632	15	14	13	-1	21	19	18	-1	64	67	69	+2
GRADE 5															
District	22,606	26,591	25,827	17	19	18	-1	27	28	29	+1	57	53	54	+1
State	181,434	197,076	192,369	16	17	15	-2	27	27	26	-1	57	57	59	+2
GRADE 6															
District	27,173	23,039	26,173	39	30	33	+3	21	21	23	+2	40	49	44	-5
State	201,550	186,792	198,195	31	26	28	+2	22	21	22	+1	47	53	50	-3
GRADE 7															
District	27,765	27,312	23,099	34	29	23	-6	22	23	22	-1	44	48	55	+7
State	203,361	202,303	188,619	26	23	20	-3	22	22	21	-1	53	55	59	+4
GRADE 8															
District	28,393	27,199	26,699	30	27	25	-2	21	22	21	-1	49	51	54	+3
State	201,488	200,431	199,297	21	20	18	-2	20	20	19	-1	59	60	63	+3
GRADE 9															
District	30,498	29,966	28,103	28	25	24	-1	24	26	25	-1	48	49	51	+2
State	214,360	212,359	207,364	20	18	17	-1	21	23	22	-1	59	59	60	+1
GRADE 10															
District	26,378	25,838	25,518	22	20	19	-1	24	22	24	+2	54	58	57	-1
State	178,530	184,635	185,346	15	15	14	-1	22	19	20	+1	63	65	65	0

Note. Achievement Levels range from Level 1 (lowest) to Level 5 (highest). The summary of all grades includes Grade 10 students participating in the standard FCAT SSS administration, not the FCAT Retake. Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Table 5
FCAT SSS Science
District and State, 2005, 2006, 2007
Percentages Students Scoring in Achievement Levels 1, 2, and 3-5, by Grade

SCIENCE	Number Tested			Level 1				Level 2				Levels 3 - 5			
	2005	2006	2007	2005*	2006	2007	Diff. 06-07	2005*	2006	2007	Diff. 06-07	2005*	2006	2007	Diff. 06-07
GRADE 5															
District	22,569	26,562	25,993	35	35	31	-4	38	36	35	-1	27	29	34	+5
State	180,453	195,877	191,789	24	29	25	-4	39	36	33	-3	37	35	42	+7
GRADE 8															
District	28,128	26,977	26,580	47	46	41	-5	30	31	30	-1	23	23	29	+6
State	198,670	198,142	197,536	29	35	31	-4	34	33	31	-2	37	32	38	+6
GRADE 11															
District	19,540	20,624	22,136	48	43	42	-1	30	31	32	+1	22	25	26	+1
State	142,353	149,848	164,580	32	32	30	-2	33	33	33	0	35	35	37	+2

Note. Achievement Levels range from Level 1 (lowest) to Level 5 (highest). Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

* Achievement level results were not reported for the 2005 FCAT. However, for purposes of comparison, the Achievement Levels which were set for the 2006 administration were retroactively applied to the 2005 results.

Section II: GRADE 10 FCAT SSS GRADUATION TEST PASSING RATES

High school students must pass FCAT Reading and Mathematics tests to meet Florida's testing requirement for a standard diploma. Students have multiple opportunities to do so prior to graduation. The first FCAT administration that can be used to satisfy the graduation requirement takes place in the spring of tenth grade, as part of the standard FCAT SSS assessment program. In Spring 2007, 25,637 Grade 10 students took the FCAT SSS Reading test and 25,518 took the Mathematics test. These are duplicated counts, as the majority of students took both tests.

FCAT scale scores can range from 100 to 500, and students must attain passing scores of 300 on both the Reading and the Mathematics tests to graduate with a standard diploma. The passing rate information provided below is for first-time test takers and does not include retained Grade 10 students who took the FCAT Retake format of the test.

Table 6
Grade 10 FCAT SSS Reading and Mathematics
District and State, 2005, 2006, 2007
Percentages of Students Meeting Graduation Requirements on the First Attempt

GRADE 10	PERCENT PASSING			
	2005	2006	2007	Difference 2006-2007
READING				
District	41%	46%	44%	-2
State	52%	52%	52%	0
MATHEMATICS				
District	68%	71%	71%	0
State	77%	77%	78%	+1