

## MEMORANDUM

May 2, 2007

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

**FROM:** Rudolph F. Crew, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools 

**SUBJECT: STATE RELEASE OF THE SPRING 2007 FLORIDA COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT TEST (FCAT) RESULTS: GRADE 3 AND GRADES 11 - 12 RETAKE**

Today the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) released results from the Spring 2007 administration of the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) for students in Grade 3, and the FCAT Retake for students in Grades 11 and 12. Specifically, district-wide and school-level summary reports were provided for students in Grade 3 on the FCAT Sunshine State Standards (SSS) and Norm-Referenced Test (NRT) assessments in reading and mathematics. In addition, summary reports were provided for the FCAT Retake in reading and mathematics, representing the scores of students in Grades 11 and 12 who participated in the Spring 2007 administration, having not yet passed the reading and/or mathematics tests required for graduation.

The state has released these results in advance of the other grade levels to facilitate promotion and graduation decisions that require consideration of FCAT results. Results for other grade levels are expected in late May 2007. Note that these summary scores include all students tested, and do not represent the groupings that will be used by the state for accountability purposes.

In Miami-Dade County Public Schools, 27,812 students in Grade 3 participated in the Spring 2007 FCAT administration. Generally, the reading achievement of third grade students in 2007 declined slightly when compared to the results of third grade students who took the assessment in 2006, while the mathematics achievement increased slightly. Highlights of third grade students' results and district summary tables are provided as attachments to this memorandum.

Overall, 14,121 students in Grades 11 and 12 who had not yet passed the reading part of the graduation test and 6,723 who had not yet passed the mathematics part of the graduation test participated in the Spring 2007 FCAT Retake administration. Of these, 2,110, or 15% of those taking the reading assessment, and 1,593, or 24% of those taking the mathematics assessment, achieved passing scores. Summary tables with district and state results are provided as attachments.

Complete district, state, and school-level summary reports are available online at: <http://oada.dadeschools.net/SAET/FCAT.asp>. School shipments of individual student reports for the Grade 3 FCAT SSS and NRT, and the Grades 11 - 12 FCAT Retake will be forwarded to schools as they are received. Additional FCAT reports will be released as they become available. 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**

**Grade 3 FCAT Sunshine State Standards and Norm Referenced Test  
Grades 11 – 12 FCAT Retake**

<b><u>Grade 3</u></b>
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**Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test – Sunshine State Standards (FCAT-SSS)**

- From 2006 to 2007, the percentages of the third grade students in both the state and the district who scored in Achievement Levels 3-5 increased slightly in mathematics, but decreased in reading.
- Overall, 56% of the district's schools showed an increase in the percentage of third grade students scoring in Levels 3 and above in mathematics, while over 80% of the schools showed a decrease in the percentage scoring in Levels 3 and above in reading.
- In reading, 63% of the district's third grade students scored in Achievement Levels 3 and above, as compared to 69% of students in the state.
- In mathematics, 70% of the district's third grade students scored in Achievement Levels 3 and above, as compared to 74% of the students in the state.

***School Improvement Zone (ZONE) Schools***

- In the School Improvement Zone schools, third grade students' mathematics scores improved substantially, with a gain of 6% in the percentage of students scoring in Achievement Levels 3 and above from 2006 to 2007.
- The percentage of third grade students scoring in Levels 3 and above in reading in the Zone paralleled that of district students, with a decline from 2006 to 2007.

**Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test – Norm Referenced Test (FCAT-NRT)**

- In reading, the average percentile rank on the FCAT-NRT for students in Grade 3 declined slightly from 2006 to 2007.
- In mathematics, the average percentile rank on the FCAT-NRT for students in Grade 3 remained stable in 2007.
- The average district percentile ranks in both reading (56<sup>th</sup> percentile) and mathematics (64<sup>th</sup> percentile) were above the national median.

## Grades 11 and 12

### **Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test Retake Exam (FCAT Retake)**

- Overall, passing rates for the FCAT Retake improved in reading, and declined slightly in mathematics from 2006 to 2007
- In reading, both the numbers of district Grade 11 and 12 students participating in the FCAT Retake graduation test, and the percentages obtaining passing scores increased from 2006 to 2007.
- In mathematics, slightly fewer district Grade 11 and 12 students participated in the Retake in 2007, with slightly lower passing rates than those in 2006.
- Higher percentages of Grade 11 and 12 students participated in the Retake exam in the district than in the state, with somewhat lower passing rates in both reading and mathematics.

**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**Summary of District and State Results for the**  
**Spring 2007 Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT)**  
**Grade 3 FCAT SSS and NRT**  
**Grades 11 and 12 FCAT Retake**

On May 2, 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). The initial summary data include only FCAT results for students in Grade 3, and FCAT Retake graduation exam results for students in Grades 11 and 12.

**Section I: Grade 3 FCAT-Sunshine State Standards (SSS)**

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. The percentages of students scoring in achievement levels 1, 2, and 3-5 in the state and district are presented in Table 1, and in the district's School Improvement Zone in Table 2.

Note that these summary results 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. They also include both students enrolled in Grade 3 for the first time and previously retained third grade students.

**Table 1**  
**Grade 3: FCAT-SSS Reading and Mathematics**  
**State and District, 2005, 2006, and 2007**  
**Percentages<sup>1</sup> Scoring in Achievement Levels 1, 2, and 3-5**

	DISTRICT				STATE			
	2005 Percent ALL Students	2006 Percent ALL Students	2007 Percent ALL Students	Difference 2006- 2007	2005 Percent ALL Students	2006 Percent ALL Students	2007 Percent ALL Students	Difference 2006- 2007
<b>READING</b>								
<i>Number tested:</i>	29,885	28,744	27,812		202,975	204,238	201,894	
Level 1	25	18	24	+6	20	14	19	+5
Level 2	14	11	14	+3	13	11	13	+2
Levels 3-5	61	71	63	-8	67	75	69	-6
<b>MATHEMATICS</b>								
<i>Number tested:</i>	29,880	28,759	27,810		203,037	204,402	201,862	
Level 1	18	15	14	-1	15	12	12	0
Level 2	18	16	16	0	17	16	14	-2
Level 3-5	63	69	70	+1	68	72	74	+2

<sup>1</sup> Percentages include all students tested, including students with disabilities and limited English proficient students.

**Table 2**  
**Grade 3: FCAT-SSS Reading and Mathematics**  
**School Improvement Zone Schools, 2005, 2006, and 2007**  
**Percentages<sup>1</sup> Scoring In Achievement Levels 1, 2, and 3-5**

	School Improvement Zone			
	2005 Percent ALL Students	2006 Percent ALL Students	2007 Percent ALL Students	Difference 2006 - 2007
<b>READING</b>				
<i>Number tested:</i>	2,050	1,792	1,630	
Level 1	41	30	36	+6
Level 2	21	15	17	+2
Levels 3-5	38	55	47	-8
<b>MATHEMATICS</b>				
<i>Number tested:</i>	2,043	1,798	1,631	
Level 1	33	23	19	-4
Level 2	24	24	23	-1
Levels 3-5	43	53	59	+6

<sup>1</sup> Percentages include all students tested, including students with disabilities and limited English proficient students.

## **SECTION II: Grade 3 FCAT-Norm Referenced Test (NRT)**

The FCAT-NRT is a secure form of the *Stanford Achievement Test, Tenth Edition* (SAT-10), which measures student achievement in comparison to a national sample of students. Results are typically reported in terms of percentile rank scores, which represent students' standing in comparison to the "norm" group. The median percentile rank of a group of students is the middle score within that group.

The median percentile ranks for students in Grade 3 on the FCAT-NRT and the number tested are provided in Table 3 for 2005, 2006, and 2007. The 2007 results include all third grade students, including those classified as limited English proficient, students with disabilities, and students who had been retained in Grade 3.

**Table 3**  
**Grade 3: FCAT-NRT Reading Comprehension and Mathematics**  
**State and District, 2005, 2006, and 2007**  
**Median Percentile Ranks and Number Tested**

	<b>2005 Percentile Rank (N)</b>	<b>2006 Percentile Rank (N)</b>	<b>2007 Percentile Rank (N)</b>	<b>Diff. 06-07</b>
<b>READING:</b>				
<b>District</b>	43 (29,708)	57 (28,733)	56 (27,758)	-1
<b>State</b>	50 (201,925)	61 (203,784)	62 (201,432)	+1
<b>MATHEMATICS:</b>				
<b>District</b>	54 (29,717)	64 (28,721)	64 (27,753)	0
<b>State</b>	62 (201,794)	67 (203,436)	69 (200,939)	+2

Note: The national median percentile is 50.

### **SECTION III: Grades 11 and 12 FCAT Retake Graduation Exam**

High school students must pass the FCAT Reading and Mathematics tests to meet Florida's testing requirement for a standard diploma. Students have at least six 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 assessment program. Students who participate in subsequent administrations of the FCAT, as Retake administrations, represent a small proportion of the population, and may include students new to the state and/or district who have never attempted the FCAT, as well as students who have taken the assessment one or more times previously in order to attain the score required for graduation. In addition to the yearly spring administration which is offered in conjunction with the standard FCAT assessment program, FCAT Retake administrations are offered in the fall and in the summer. The Spring 2007 FCAT administration was the last opportunity for current Grade 12 students to pass the FCAT Retake prior to their scheduled graduation. Continuing students may participate in Retake administrations after their scheduled graduation date if they meet eligibility requirements.

#### **Interpreting FCAT Retake Results**

Several factors must be considered in interpreting the FCAT Retake results. First, students need only take the test(s) they have not yet passed, Reading, Mathematics, or both. As such, the number tested in Reading and in Mathematics can not be added to represent the total number tested, as some students took both tests while others only needed to take 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 FCAT graduation test during an earlier opportunity are eligible to participate in the Retake administration. 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 such, interpretations about changes in passing rates should be made with caution.

FCAT Retake scores are reported in terms of scale scores, ranging from 100 to 500. Students must attain scores of 300 on both the Reading and the Mathematics tests to graduate with a standard diploma.

Tables 5 and 6 list the numbers of Grade 11 and 12 students tested in Reading and Mathematics, respectively, and the passing rates from 2005 through 2007. Also included in the tables are the percentages of the population of enrolled Grade 11 and 12 students these students represent. Note that other students also participated in this administration, such as those retained in Grade 10 or those who took the test after their scheduled graduation dates (Grade 13 and adult education students). However, summaries of the results for these other students are not provided, as the number of participant is too small to allow for appropriate comparisons.

**Table 4**  
**FCAT Retake Reading**  
**Grades 11 and 12: District and State, 2005, 2006, and 2007**  
**Number Tested, Percent of Enrolled Students Represented, and Passing Rates**

READING		DISTRICT			STATE		
		Number Tested	Percent of Population* Tested	Passing Rate	Number Tested	Percent of Population* Tested	Passing Rate
Grade 11	2005	8,298	34	19%	49,092	27	25%
	2006	8,631	34	14%	51,567	28	17%
	2007	9,129	37	16%	56,099	30	20%
Grade 12	2005	3,853	18	15%	18,904	13	20%
	2006	4,484	21	12%	23,129	15	14%
	2007	4,992	23	13%	25,815	16	15%

\* Based on Fall enrollment data for each school year.

**Table 5**  
**FCAT Retake Mathematics**  
**Grades 11 and 12: District and State, 2005, 2006, and 2007**  
**Number Tested, Percent of Enrolled Students Represented, and Passing Rates**

MATHEMATICS		DISTRICT			STATE		
		Number Tested	Percent of Population* Tested	Passing Rate	Number Tested	Percent of Population* Tested	Passing Rate
Grade 11	2005	5,398	22	32%	29,846	17	38%
	2006	4,553	18	26%	26,399	14	33%
	2007	4,523	18	25%	27,120	15	33%
Grade 12	2005	2,463	12	30%	11,593	8	35%
	2006	2,232	10	25%	10,782	7	29%
	2007	2,200	10	21%	10,633	7	26%

\* Based on Fall enrollment data for each school year.