

MEMORANDUM

September 30, 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 FLORIDA STANDARDS ASSESSMENTS (FSA)

Today, six months after the administration of the new Florida Standards Assessments (FSA) in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics, the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) released state, district, school, and student results. Despite the administration difficulties, questionable findings of a state-commissioned validity study, and a rush to release findings in an attempt to authenticate the results for use in the accountability system, scores are much as expected with most clustered around a statewide mean T-Score of "50."

The ELA assessments include reading and language components in Grades 3 through 10, a writing component in Grades 4 through 10, and a listening component in Grades 5 through 10. The Mathematics assessments are comprehensive in Grades 3 through 8; and provided as End-of-Course (EOC) assessments for the following secondary courses: Algebra 1, Geometry, and Algebra 2.

In Spring 2015, the state of Florida transitioned from standards-based assessments which addressed the Next Generation Sunshine Standards (NGSSS) in Reading and Mathematics to the new FSA assessments which target the new Florida Standards in ELA and Mathematics. As required by House Bill 7069, the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) contracted for an external validity study to examine the Spring 2015 administration of these new assessments which was to be completed by September 1, 2015, and prior to the release of student results. Earlier, only pass/fail statuses for Grade 3 and Grade 10 ELA, and Algebra 1 students were provided to schools to facilitate promotion decisions and retake opportunities; these results were based on percentile rankings in relationship to the prior year's FCAT/NGSSS results.

The scores released today for the FSA assessments are reported using percentile ranks and T-Scores (which can range from 20 – 80) in the first year of administration. FSA Scale Scores and achievement levels will be set later this year. The achievement levels will be used to report scores and inform student progression decisions and graduation requirements starting with the 2015-2016 school year.

In Spring 2015, 207,925 Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) students in Grades 3 through 10 took FSA ELA; 141,947 students in Grades 3 through 8 took FSA Mathematics; while 26,489 students took the Algebra 1 EOC, 28,387 students took the Geometry EOC, and 24,495 took the Algebra 2 EOC. It should be noted that the results released today include all students tested and do not represent the groupings that will be used by the State for accountability purposes.

Highlights of the M-DCPS students' results follow, and summary tables providing comparisons of District and State results by grade level are provided as attachments to this memorandum.

- M-DCPS students scored on par with their counterparts statewide in both English Language Arts and Mathematics.
 - The districtwide mean T-Scores of 50 in ELA and Mathematics across all grades were equal to those of students statewide.
- In Mathematics, M-DCPS students in grades 3 and 4 outscored students statewide, receiving mean T-Scores of 51, as compared to the statewide mean of 50.
- Across all grade levels, M-DCPS students scored slightly lower than students statewide on the three new FSA End-of-Course assessments in Algebra 1, Geometry, and Algebra 2.

Complete District, State, and school summary reports will be made available on the FLDOE website. School shipments of Individual Student Reports will be forwarded to schools as soon as they are received.

It should be noted that FCAT 2.0/NGSSS assessments will continue to be administered in Grade 5 and 8 Science, Biology, Civics, US History, and as retake opportunities for eligible students who have not passed the NGSSS Algebra 1 graduation test. The results for these assessments were reported at the time of their release in June 2015.

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

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Summary of District and State Results for the
Spring 2015 Florida Standards Assessments Test (FSA)
English Language Arts (ELA), Mathematics, and End-of-Course (EOC)

On September 30, 2015 the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) released data from the baseline administration of the new Florida Standards Assessments (FSA) in Spring 2015. The FSA English Language Arts (ELA) assessments which include Reading and Language components in Grades 3 through 10, a Writing component in Grades 4 through 10, and a Listening component in Grades 5 through 10, if the assessment is administered on the computer. The FSA Mathematics assessments are comprehensive in Grades 3 through 8; and provided as End-of-Course (EOC) assessments for secondary students enrolled in Algebra 1, Geometry, and Algebra 2 courses. The tables that follow provide summaries of the data for all participating students.

Historical

The FSA in ELA and Mathematics is a criterion-referenced test that measures students' mastery of grade-level content. The FCAT assessment program first began in 1998 with administration in only selected grade levels, building to include all students in Grades 3 through 11 in reading, mathematics and/or science. The FLDOE moved from FCAT to FCAT 2.0 beginning in the 2010-2011 school year in reading and mathematics to align with the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards (NGSSS), transitioning to EOC assessments in mathematics and science for secondary students. In the 2014-2015 school year, the FLDOE began transitioning again from the NGSSS to the Florida Standards in reading and mathematics. Florida's End-of-Course (EOC) assessments target specific course content and are administered to all students taking the applicable course, without regard to grade level. Thus, the number of students tested can vary from grade to grade, year to year, and school to school.

Administration

Most FSA assessments are delivered via a computer-based testing (CBT) platform to students. Only assessments in Grades 3 and 4, and the ELA Writing component in Grades 5 through 7 were administered as paper-based assessments in Spring 2015, in addition to paper-based accommodations provided to eligible students at higher grade levels. The state's transitional plan calls for all FSA assessments (except accommodated forms) to be computer-based by 2017-18.

Score Reporting

During this first-year of administration of the FSA, percentile ranks and T-Scores, which can range from 20 to 80, are reported. FSA Scale Scores and achievement levels will be set later this year after the performance-level standard setting process is completed. The achievement levels will be used to report scores and inform student progression decisions and graduation requirements starting with the 2015-2016 school year.

Results

In Spring 2015, 207,925 M-DCPS students in Grades 3 through 10 took FSA ELA; 141,947 students in Grades 3 through 8 took FSA Mathematics, while 26,489 students took Algebra 1, 28,387 students took Geometry, and 24,495 took Algebra 2 EOC assessments. Tables 1 through 5 provide the number of students tested, the median percentile rank, and mean T-score for the District and State by grade level for ELA, Mathematics, and the EOCs.

Application of Scores

By Florida Statute (s. 1003.428, FS), students entering Grade 9 in the 2011-12 school year and moving forward, must achieve a passing score on the Algebra 1 EOC assessment to meet graduation requirements. All EOC results must be included as 30 percent of the final course grade beginning in 2013-14 for secondary students. However, this requirement was suspended for the new FSA EOCs administered in Spring 2015. Additionally, students who entered Grade 9 in the 2014-2015 school year and beyond must score in Achievement Level 3 or above on the Grade 10 FSA ELA for graduation purposes. In addition, Section 1008.25 FS stipulates that students in Grade 3 must demonstrate reading mastery to be promoted to Grade 4. It should be noted that additional opportunities are provided to students who do not meet the established criteria on these assessments, to be eligible for promotion or graduation.

As achievement levels are not available for the baseline administration of the new FSA assessments, the FLDOE provided schools with pass/fail indicators for Grade 10 ELA and Algebra 1 students. These indicators were based on percentile rankings in relationship to the prior year's FCAT/NGSSS results. Summaries of the percentage of students in the District and State who met the established criteria are found on Table 6.

Table 1
FSA English Language Arts (ELA)
District and State: 2015
Number Tested, Median Percentile Rank, and Mean T-Score, by Grade

English Language Arts	Number Tested	Median Percentile Rank	Mean T-Score
District			
Grade 3	27,885	52	50
Grade 4	24,883	53	50
Grade 5	25,237	53	50
Grade 6	25,510	48	49
Grade 7	25,559	48	49
Grade 8	26,341	48	50
Grade 9	26,710	51	50
Grade 10	25,800	46	49
Total	207,925	49	50
State			
Grade 3	215,264		50
Grade 4	197,630		50
Grade 5	196,752		50
Grade 6	192,427		50
Grade 7	191,686		50
Grade 8	197,801		50
Grade 9	200,527		50
Grade 10	190,437		50
Total	1,582,524		50

¹Median Percentile Ranks are provided for the District to facilitate interpretation of the percentile rank scores to be provided on the Individual Student Reports. Median Percentile Ranks were not provided for the state, but should typically be at the 50th percentile.

Note: Results include all students tested, including students with disabilities and English language learners.

Table 2
FSA Mathematics
District and State: 2015
Number Tested, Median Percentile Rank, and Mean T-Score, by Grade

Mathematics	Number Tested	Median Percentile Rank	Mean T-Score
District			
Grade 3	27,844	52	51
Grade 4	24,992	54	51
Grade 5	25,404	50	50
Grade 6	25,299	45	49
Grade 7	22,728	41	48
Grade 8	15,680	42	48
Total	141,947	49	50
State			
Grade 3	215,419		50
Grade 4	199,291		50
Grade 5	198,938		50
Grade 6	190,866		49
Grade 7	178,730		50
Grade 8	123,252		50
Total	1,106,496		50

¹Median Percentile Ranks are provided for the District to facilitate interpretation of the percentile rank scores to be provided on the Individual Student Reports. Median Percentile Ranks were not provided for the state, but should typically be at the 50th percentile.

Note: Results include all students tested, including students with disabilities and English language learners.

Table 3
FSA Algebra 1 End-of-Course (EOC)
District and State: 2015
Number Tested, Median Percentile Rank, and Mean T-Score, by Grade

Algebra 1	Number Tested	Median Percentile Rank	Mean T-Score
District			
Grade 7	3,281	78	58
Grade 8	7,653	68	54
Grade 9	15,241	32	43
Grade 10	185	18	38
Grade 11	73	13	37
Grade 12	30	16	35
Total	26,489	46	48
State			
Grade 7	18,254		60
Grade 8	61,953		55
Grade 9	109,554		44
Grade 10	9,734		40
Grade 11	1,468		39
Grade 12	586		41
Total	201,745		49

¹Median Percentile Ranks are provided for the District to facilitate interpretation of the percentile rank scores to be provided on the Individual Student Reports. Median Percentile Ranks were not provided for the state, but the total should typically be at the 50th percentile.

Note: The totals include small numbers of students in other grade levels not listed. Results include all students tested, including students with disabilities and English language learners.

Table 4
FSA Geometry End-of-Course (EOC)
District and State: 2015
Number Tested, Median Percentile Rank, and Mean T-Score, by Grade

Geometry	Number Tested	Median Percentile Rank	Mean T-Score
District			
Grade 8	3,134	81	59
Grade 9	8,612	61	53
Grade 10	16,129	28	43
Grade 11	333	17	40
Grade 12	134	12	37
Total	28,387	45	48
State			
Grade 8	15,165		61
Grade 9	55,787		55
Grade 10	96,577		46
Grade 11	21,926		43
Grade 12	4,849		40
Total	194,590		49

¹Median Percentile Ranks are provided for the District to facilitate interpretation of the percentile rank scores to be provided on the Individual Student Reports. Median Percentile Ranks were not provided for the state, but should typically be at the 50th percentile.

Note: The totals include small numbers of students in other grade levels not listed. Results include all students tested, including students with disabilities and English language learners.

Table 5
FSA Algebra 2 End-of-Course (EOC)
District and State: 2015
Number Tested, Median Percentile Rank, and Mean T-Score, by Grade

Algebra 2	Number Tested	Median Percentile Rank	Mean T-Score
District			
Grade 8	141	74	57
Grade 9	2,526	77	56
Grade 10	7,215	56	50
Grade 11	14,003	27	40
Grade 12	586	18	36
Total	24,495	39	45
State			
Grade 8	2,947		59
Grade 9	19,779		57
Grade 10	55,473		51
Grade 11	70,382		44
Grade 12	9,333		40
Total	158,015		48

¹Median Percentile Ranks are provided for the District to facilitate interpretation of the percentile rank scores to be provided on the Individual Student Reports. Median Percentile Ranks were not provided for the state, but should typically be at the 50th percentile.

Note: The totals include small numbers of students in other grade levels not listed. Results include all students tested, including students with disabilities and English language learners.

Table 6
FSA Grade 10 English Language Arts (ELA) and Algebra 1 End-of-Course (EOC)
District and State: 2015
Number Tested and Percent Passing

	Number Tested	Percent Passing
Grade 10 ELA		
District	25,800	52%
State	190,437	54%
Algebra 1		
District	26,489	63%
State	201,745	67%

Note: Grade 10 ELA and Algebra 1 EOC statewide assessments are linked to 2013-14 student performance expectations.