

2008-2009 SCHOOL PERFORMANCE GRADES SUMMARY

The school performance grade includes four (4) measures of student achievement (proficiency components) and four (4) measures of student learning gains (gains component). School performance grades are determined by the accumulation of percentages points for these eight (8) measures of achievement and are calculated as follows:

Four (4) Proficiency Components:

1. One (1) point for each percent of students who score at or above FCAT Achievement Level 3 in Reading.
2. One (1) point for each percent of students who score at or above FCAT Achievement Level 3 in Mathematics.
3. One (1) point for each percent of students who score 3.5 or higher on the FCAT Writing test (essay).
4. One (1) point for each percent of students who score at or above FCAT Achievement Level 3 in Science.

Four (4) Gains Components:

1. One (1) point for each percent of student who make learning gains in Reading.
2. One (1) point for each percent of students who make learning gains in Mathematics.
3. One (1) point for each percent of the lowest 25% performing students who make learning gains in Reading.
4. One (1) point for each percent of the lowest 25% performing students who make learning gains in Mathematics.

These point are added together and converted into a school performance grade based on the following scale:

<u>GRADE</u>	<u>2007-2008</u>
A	525 or more points
B	495-524
C	435-494
D	395-434
F	Less than 395

In addition to the accumulation of percentage points for each of the eight (8) performance measures, schools are also evaluated on the basis of three (3) other conditions:

- **Percent Tested:**

- Schools earning enough points to receive an "A" must test at least 95% of their eligible population.
- Schools earning enough points to receive a "B", "C", or "D" must test at least 90% of their eligible population.

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- Schools not meeting the percentage tested will receive one (1) letter grade lower than otherwise indicated by the points earned.

- **Adequate Progress of the Lowest 25% in Reading and Mathematics:**
 - Adequate progress requirement is met by any of the following methods:
 - Schools must demonstrate that at least 50% of the lowest 25% performing students make annual learning gains in Reading and Math.
 - Schools with at least 40% of the lowest 25% performing students making annual learning gains in Reading and Math must demonstrate at least 1% annual improvement in the percentage of the lowest 25% making learning gains from prior year.
 - Schools with less than 40% of the lowest 25% performing students making annual learning gains in Reading and Math must demonstrate at least 5% annual improvement in the percentage of the lowest 25% making learning gains from prior year.
 - Schools earning enough points to receive an "A" must meet Adequate Progress in Reading and Mathematics in the current year. Schools earning enough points to receive a "B" or "C" must meet Adequate Progress in Reading and Mathematics in either the current year or the previous year.
 - Schools that do not meet Adequate Yearly Progress will receive one (1) letter grade lower than otherwise indicated by the points earned.

- **Retakers of Grade 11 and 12:**
 - Ten Bonus points are earned if 50% of 11th and 12th graders retaking the FCAT in Reading and 50% of 11th and 12th graders retaking the FCAT in Mathematics receive a passing score. This computation excludes children who meet the graduation requirement based on the SAT or ACT alternate assessment.

2008-2009 SCHOOL PERFORMANCE GRADES FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What schools are eligible to be graded?

Any school with at least 30 “standard curriculum” students with valid FCAT scores in both the current and the previous year who were enrolled in the same school for the October FTE and the February FTE periods is eligible.

Which students are included in the school performance grade calculation?

- **Performance Components:**

All “standard curriculum” students enrolled in the same school for the October FTE and the February FTE periods with valid FCAT scores in the current year.

Standard curriculum students exclude Limited English Proficient (LEP) students who entered less than two (2) years before the first day of the FCAT Writing test, but include Exceptional Student Education (ESE) students that are gifted, speech impaired, or hospital/home bound.

- **Learning Gains Components:**

All students (including LEP and ESE students) enrolled in the same school for the October FTE and February FTE periods with valid FCAT scores in both the current and the previous year.

Who is included in percent tested?

All students enrolled in the same school for the October FTE and the February FTE periods are included in the participation calculation unless the student took an alternate assessment. An “A” school must test at least 95% of their eligible population and all others must test at least 90%. Schools not meeting these requirements will receive one (1) letter grade lower than otherwise indicated by the points earned. An adjustment to the numerator/denominator is made when a student answered too few items or if their test was invalidated. This is to ensure it does not count against the school’s percent tested.

What are the standards for meeting the proficiency requirements?

- Achievement Level 3 or above in Reading.
- Achievement Level 3 or above in Mathematics.
- Achievement Level 3 or above in Science.
- A score of 3.5 or higher in Writing (essay only).

What constitutes learning gains?

Students make learning gains by any of one of the following methods:

- Improving by one or more FCAT achievement levels;
- Maintaining FCAT achievement levels 3, 4, or 5; or
- For non-retained students at achievement levels 1 or 2; showing more than one year’s growth on FCAT Developmental Scale Scores (DSS).

2008-2009 SCHOOL PERFORMANCE GRADES FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Do retained students affect the school performance grade?

Retained students count in the school performance grade. They are included in all components. However, in order for a retained student to make learning gains they must either increase their achievement level or maintain their level if in level 3, 4 or 5.

Are ESE students who took the alternative test included in the school performance grade?

No.

How does Adequate progress in Reading and Mathematics affect the school performance grade?

- Adequate Progress means that half of the students scoring in the lowest 25% demonstrated a year's worth of learning gains. Requirement can also be met by demonstrating improvement in this percentage.
- A school preliminarily designated as performance grade "A" that does not make Adequate Progress in Reading and Mathematics in the current year will receive a "B" as the final performance grade.
- A school preliminarily designated as performance grade "B" or "C" that does not make Adequate Progress in Reading and Mathematics in the current **AND** the previous year will receive one letter grade lower as the final performance grade.

How does the state determine the population for the lowest 25% in Reading and in Mathematics?

The lowest 25% is based on ranking students on the prior year's FCAT developmental reading or mathematics score. Only students at FCAT achievement levels 1, 2, and 3 are included in the ranking.

Does the multiple choice portion of the Writing test count in the school performance grade?

For the 2008-2009 school year, the multiple choice portion of the FCAT Writing test is not part of the of the school performance grade calculation.

What substitutions are made in the school performance grade calculation when fewer than 30 eligible students are tested?

- Lowest 25% Reading gains substituted with Reading Learning Gains for all students.
- Lowest 25% Math gains substituted with Math Learning Gains for all students.
- Writing Proficiency substituted with the district's average writing score for the specific grade level.
- Science Proficiency substituted with the district's average science score for the specific grade level.

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

Are retained 10th grade students who previously passed the FCAT included in the school performance grade calculation?

No.

FLDOE technical assistance paper is available at:

<http://oada.dadeschools.net/SchoolPerformanceGrades/2008SchoolGradesTAP.pdf>