

MEMORANDUM

January 4, 2012

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

FROM: Alberto M. Carvalho, Superintendent of Schools 

SUBJECT: 2010-2011 FINAL HIGH SCHOOL PERFORMANCE GRADES

During the 2008 legislative session, Senate Bill 1908 was passed significantly changing the way senior high schools were to be graded beginning with the 2009-10 school year. The bill required high school grades to include alternate measures of student achievement in addition to the vital foundation of Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) results in Grades 9, 10, and 11. The additional measures provide an equal focus on college readiness, access to and performance on accelerated coursework, and graduation rates for all students and for those who are academically at-risk.

On June 30, 2011, the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) released the total number of points earned by each high school on the FCAT components. These points only represented 50 percent of the final School Performance Grades for senior high schools; however, these points were used to determine the FLDOE's Differentiated Accountability School Status in the interim.

Today, the FLDOE has released the final High School Performance Grades which include both the FCAT and the non-FCAT components. The results for Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) are unprecedented and historic.

- For the first time, **more than half received a grade of "A"** (31 schools, or 53%).
 - Nearly three-quarters of M-DCPS' senior high schools (43 schools, or 73%) received either an "A" or "B".
- Miami-Dade outperformed the state and most other similar counties including Broward, Hillsborough, and Palm Beach with regard to the percentage of senior high schools rated "A".
- Of the 10 Education Transformation Office (ETO) senior high schools, 8 improved and 1 maintained the improvement achieved in the previous year, including:
 - Miami Southridge Senior High School improved from "D" to "A";
 - Miami Jackson and Miami Northwestern Senior High Schools improved from grades of "D" to "B";
 - Miami Carol City, Homestead, Miami Norland, and North Miami improved from grades of "D" to "C"; and
 - Booker T. Washington Senior High School improved from "F" to "D".
- Ten senior high schools in the District earned enough points to receive a higher school performance grade than reported, but due to provisions in the law that

penalize schools that do not make adequate progress of the lowest performing students or do not meet the at-risk graduation rate, these schools dropped a letter grade.

- Of these schools, six received a “B”, but would have qualified for an “A”: North Miami Beach, Killian, William H. Turner Technical Arts, Coral Gables, Mater Academy Lakes, and John Ferguson senior high schools; and
- Three received a “D”, but would have qualified for a “C”: Miami Central, Hialeah-Miami Lakes, and Booker T. Washington senior high schools.
- In addition, Alonzo and Tracy Mournig Senior High Biscayne Bay, which received a grade based on only the FCAT components, received a “C”, but would have qualified for a “B”.

The attachments provide a summary of the High School Performance Grades. Individual school performance grade results are available on the FLDOE website at: <http://schoolgrades.fldoe.org/default.asp>. Should you have any questions regarding the results, please contact 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

Table 1
2007-08 through 2010-11
School Performance Grade Distributions for Traditional Senior High Schools

	A		B		C		D		F		Total Schools
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	
2010-11	31	53	12	20	13	22	3	5	0	0	59
2009-10	21	34	15	25	13	21	11	18	1	2	61
2008-09	16	29	12	21	13	23	9	16	6	11	56
2007-08	15	30	9	18	12	24	7	14	7	14	50

NOTE: High school performance grades for 2010 and 2011 cannot be directly compared to those in previous years due to the addition of new accountability components. In addition, 8 of the 59 senior high schools received grades based only on FCAT components because they did not have a 2010-11 graduating class.

M-DCPS High School Performance Grades 2007-08 to 2010-11

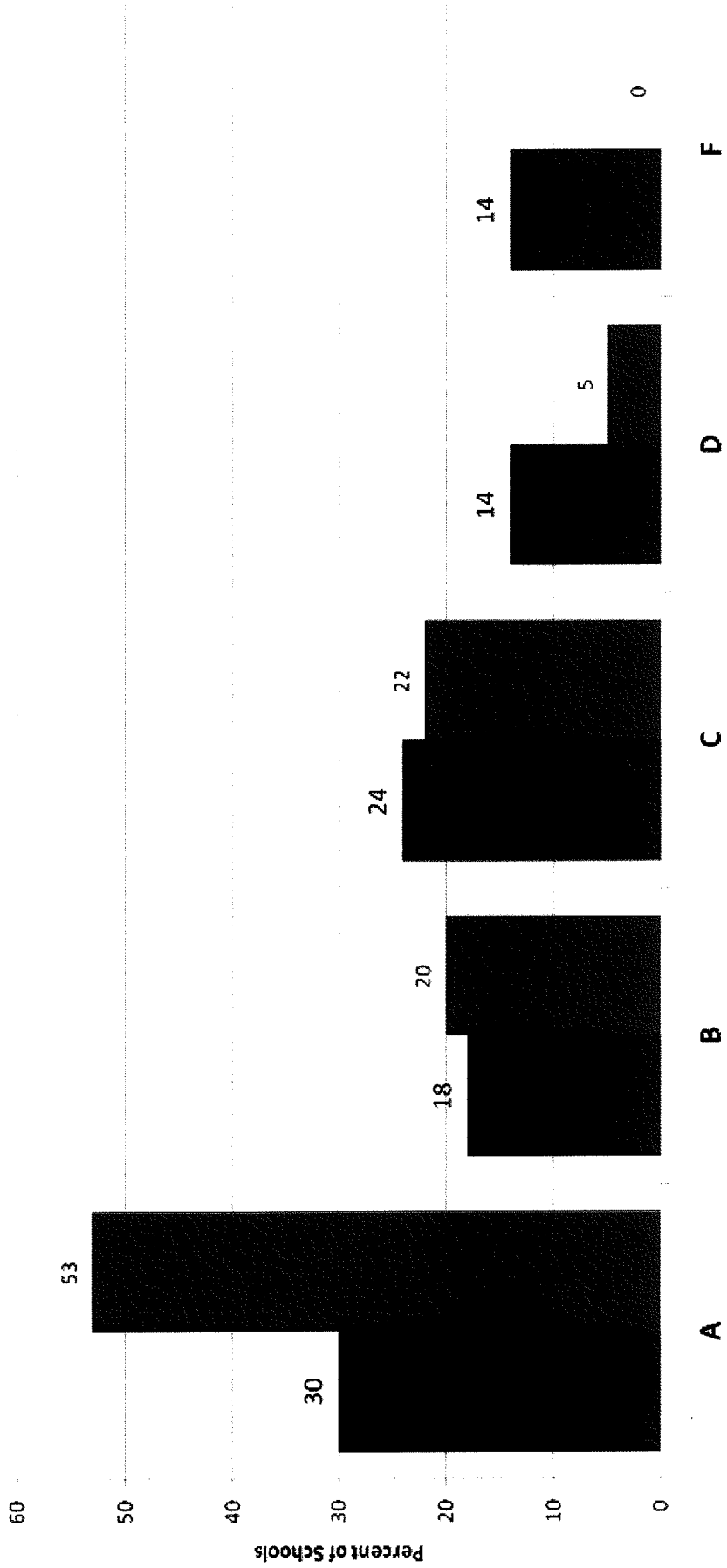


Figure 1. Improvement in School Performance Grades by Miami-Dade County senior high schools from 2007-08 through 2010-11.

Table 2
2011 School Performance Grades
Miami-Dade, Florida, and Selected Districts

DISTRICT	A		B		C		D		F		Total Schools
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	
Miami-Dade	25	49%	11	22%	12	24%	3	6%	0	0%	51
Broward	17	45%	12	32%	7	18%	1	3%	1	3%	38
Hillsborough	8	29%	18	64%	1	4%	1	4%	0	0%	28
Palm Beach	8	28%	16	55%	3	10%	2	7%	0	0%	29
Florida	147	31%	224	47%	72	15%	25	5%	6	1%	474

Note: Includes ONLY senior high schools with grades reported in January 2012 using the full 1600 point model which includes both FCAT and alternate measures of high school achievement. Excludes the senior high schools that received School Performance Grades in June 2011 based on only the FCAT components.