


MEMORANDUM

December 18, 2014

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

FROM: Alberto M. Carvalho, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: 2013-2014 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 2009-2010 school year. In 2014, there were additional statutory changes in the high school grading formula that came into effect. These were:

- Inclusion of US History End-of-Course results for a total of 100 points;
- Reduction of points on the acceleration component from 300 to 200 (due to inclusion of US History); and
- Adjustment of grading scale to reflect raised expectations.

The adjusted grading scale requires schools to earn an additional 60 points, on average, to maintain a school performance grade of “A” or “B”.

On July 11, 2014, the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) released the total number of points earned by each school on the FCAT 2.0 components. These points only represent 50 percent of School Performance Grades for senior high schools. Today, the FLDOE has released the final High School Performance Grades which include both the FCAT 2.0 and the non-FCAT 2.0 components. Highlights for Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) include:

- M-DCPS’ senior high School Performance Grades outperformed the state, despite the changes in the grading scale and the inclusion of new components in the grading formula.
 - 43% of M-DCPS senior high schools earned an “A”, as compared to 36% statewide.
 - 74% of M-DCPS senior high schools earned an “A” or “B”, as compared to 71% statewide.
 - 97% of M-DCPS senior high schools earned School Performance Grades of “C” or better, as compared to 95% statewide.
- For the fourth consecutive school year, M-DCPS has had no “F” senior high schools.
- Graduation rates are included in the non-FCAT 2.0 School Performance Grade components for senior high schools. The 2013-14 M-DCPS graduation rate of 76.6% exceeded the historically high graduation rates achieved statewide (76.1%).

Despite these positive results in the District, the changes to the grading scale and accountability formula did impact schools statewide, and in Miami-Dade. Eleven high schools in Miami-Dade County would have earned a higher grade had the new grading scale not been in effect. And, three schools earned sufficient points to qualify for a higher grade had they not been penalized in accordance with the 25% reading proficiency trigger (i.e., Lawrence Academy Charter, Miami Central and Miami Northwestern Senior High Schools). In addition, three more M-DCPS senior high schools would have received an “A”, but received a “B” instead, due to the penalty applied to schools who do not meet the at-risk students’ graduation rate threshold (i.e., Doral Academy Charter, Coral Gables Senior High School and Hialeah Gardens Senior High School).

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/>. If 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
Ms. Gisela Feild

Table 1
2009-2010 through 2013-2014
School Performance Grade Distributions for Senior High Schools
Receiving a High School Performance Grade (1600 points)

	A		B		C		D		F		Total Schools
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	
2013-2014	25	43	18	31	13	22	2*	3	0	0	58
2012-2013	34	60	15	26	5	9	3	5	0	0	57
2011-2012	35	63	14	25	7	13	0	0	0	0	56
2010-2011	25	49	11	22	12	24	3	6	0	0	51
2009-2010	17	35	11	23	10	21	9	19	1	2	48

*Two schools: One charter schools and one traditional school.

Note: Summary includes ONLY senior high schools with grades reported in December 2014 using the full 1600 point model which includes both FCAT 2.0 and alternate measures of high school achievement. The table excludes: senior high schools that received School Performance Grades in July 2014 based on only the FCAT 2.0 components; six schools which are incomplete, pending review; and three alternative schools that received a final grade of 'F' (i.e., 8019 Academy for Community Education, 8101 Jan Mann Opportunity School, and 7862 Secondary Student Success Center).