


## MEMORANDUM

February 24, 2011

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

**FROM:** Alberto M. Carvalho, Superintendent of Schools 

**SUBJECT: HIGHLIGHTS OF RESULTS FROM THE 2009 NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS TRIAL URBAN DISTRICT ASSESSMENT SCIENCE, GRADES 4 AND 8**

Today, the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) released *The Nation's Report Card, Trial Urban District Assessment, Science 2009*, a summary of the results of the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) in science for students in grades 4 and 8. The science assessment was administered January 26 through March 6, 2009, in conjunction with the mathematics and reading assessments. Results were released in December 2009 and May 2010, respectively for mathematics and reading. The 2009 administration was Miami-Dade County Public Schools' (M-DCPS) first year in the Trial Urban District Assessment (TUDA) program, which directly compares the achievement of students in large urban districts that face similar challenges with regard to poverty and high risk populations. The districts that participated in the NAEP/TUDA science are Atlanta, Austin, Baltimore, Boston, Charlotte, Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit, Fresno, Houston, Jefferson County (KY), Los Angeles, Miami-Dade, Milwaukee, New York City, Philadelphia, and San Diego.

The NAEP Science results paralleled the outstanding results for M-DCPS students shown on NAEP Reading and Mathematics. Following are some highlights from the results, which included approximately 4,200 students in 145 M-DCPS schools.

- M-DCPS 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students outperformed students in large city schools (population over 250,000) nationwide on the NAEP Science assessment in terms of average scale score and the percent scoring at or above Basic.
- M-DCPS 4<sup>th</sup> grade students scored as well or better than **all** of the other 16 TUDA districts.
  - Significantly higher percentages of the M-DCPS 4<sup>th</sup> grade students scored at or above Basic than 11 of the other TUDA districts, including New York City, Houston, Atlanta, and Chicago.
- M-DCPS 8<sup>th</sup> grade students outperformed students in large city schools (populations over 250,000).
  - Higher percentages of M-DCPS 8<sup>th</sup> grade students scored at or above Basic than 11 other TUDA districts including Boston, New York City, Atlanta, Los Angeles, and Chicago.
- M-DCPS 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Hispanic students outperformed their counterparts nationwide in public schools and in large city schools both in average scores and in the percentage scoring at or above Basic and at or above Proficient.

- Results on this national science assessment reflected M-DCPS students' achievement, which is not typically revealed through the state's FCAT Science. Overall, 66% of the M-DCPS 4<sup>th</sup> grade students, and 49% of the 8<sup>th</sup> grade students scored at or above Basic on the 2009 NAEP Science assessment.

Complete District results are available online at <http://www.fldoe.org/asp/naep/naep2009science.asp>, and State and National Summary Reports are available at <http://www.nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/>.

A press conference to discuss these test results will be held at 2 p.m. on February 24, 2011, in Room 904 of the School Board Administration Building. I hope you will be able to attend.

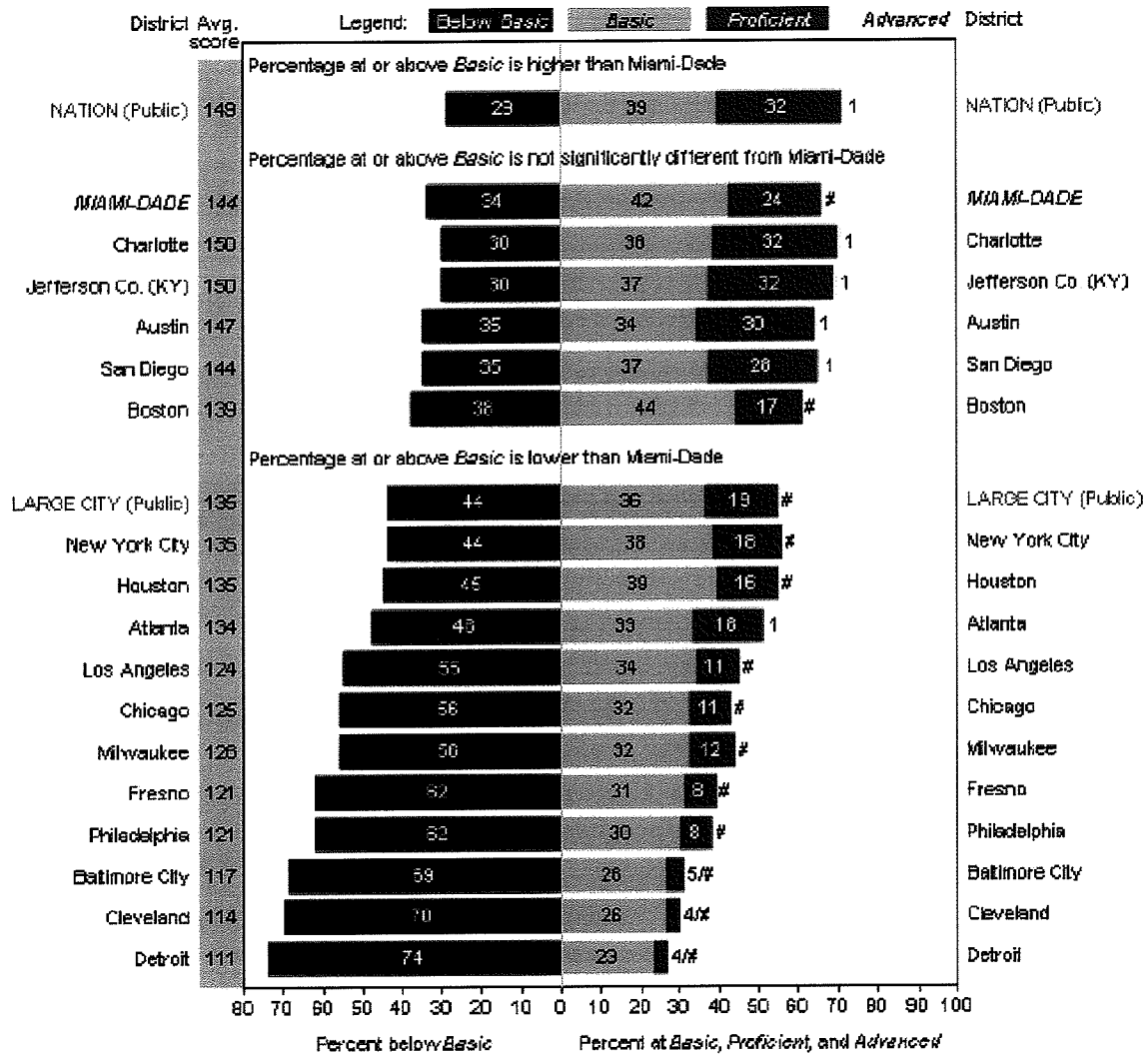
Should you have any questions about the attached results, please contact, Ms. Deborah Karcher, Chief Information Officer, Information Technology Services, at 305-995-3751, or Ms. Gisela Feild, Administrative Director, Assessment, Research, and Data Analysis, at 305-995-7512.

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Attachments

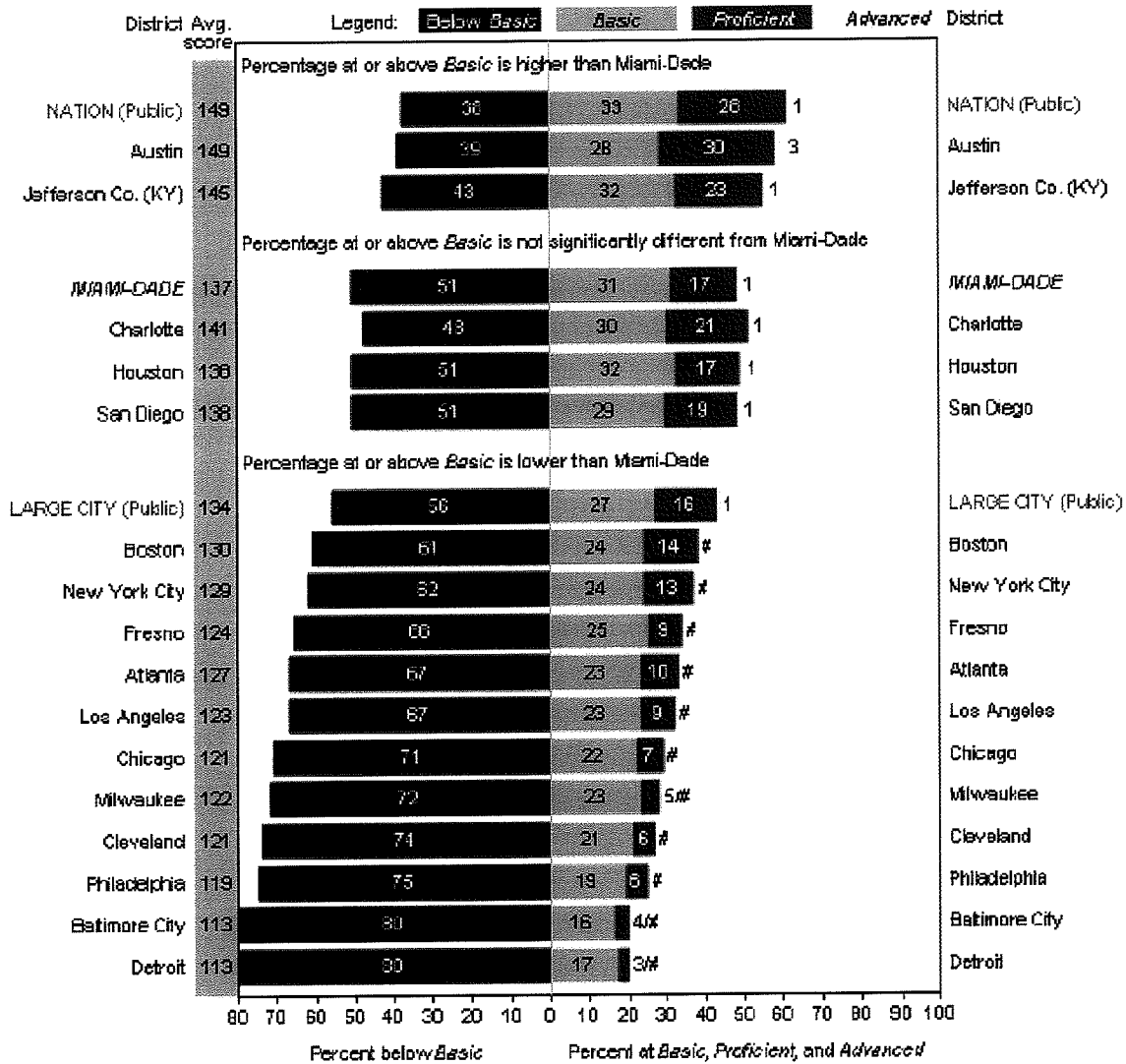
cc: School Board Attorney  
Superintendent's Cabinet  
Superintendent's Senior Staff

# Science, Grade 4



**Figure 1.** Average scale scores in NAEP science for fourth grade public school students, percentage within each achievement level, and Miami-Dade's percentage at or above Basic compared to the nation, large city and other participating districts: 2009. From *The Nation's Report Card Trial Urban District Assessment, Science 2009*, National Center for Education Statistics.

# Science, Grade 8



**Figure 2.** Average scale scores in NAEP science for eighth grade public school students, percentage within each achievement level, and Miami-Dade's percentage at or above Basic compared to the nation, large city and other participating districts: 2009. From *The Nation's Report Card Trial Urban District Assessment, Science 2009*, National Center for Education Statistics.