


MEMORANDUM

September 23, 2011

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

FROM: Alberto M. Carvalho, Superintendent of Schools 

SUBJECT: SPRING 2011 RESULTS OF THE COMPREHENSIVE ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING ASSESSMENT (CELLA)

The Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) has released results from the Spring 2011 administration of the Comprehensive English Language Learning Assessment (CELLA). Specifically, state, district, and individual school summary results were released for English Language Learners (ELLs) in grades K-12.

Beginning in the 2006-2007 school year, Florida has used CELLA to measure growth in English language proficiency for students classified as ELLs, as required by the federal No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB). CELLA is a four-skill assessment that is administered in Speaking, Listening, Reading, and Writing to all ELLs in grades K-12. CELLA was administered in Florida for the first time in the fall of 2006 as a baseline assessment, with subsequent administrations annually in the spring of each school year. It is important to note that yearly outcomes represent a cross-sectional view of English language acquisition, and any year-to-year summary comparisons are based on largely different student groups as new, beginning English language learners join the English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) program, while other students exit the program as they become English proficient.

Districts' students' NCLB accountability requirements, known as Annual Measureable Achievement Objectives (AMAOs), are reported on districts' students' achievement in three areas: (1) progress towards acquiring English language proficiency, (2) attainment of English language proficiency, and (3) adequate yearly progress in reading and mathematics based on the results of the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Tests (FCAT/FCAT 2.0).

CELLA outcomes are reported by the FLDOE in terms of scale scores and proficiency levels for each grade level and area tested: Listening/Speaking, Reading, and Writing. Based on the state-approved proficiency levels, students' CELLA scores are used to determine their ESOL level and are one factor considered in exiting students from the ESOL program. Additionally, CELLA results may be used diagnostically to track students' progress over time and to identify students' strengths and weaknesses in English.

Over 62,500 Miami-Dade County Public School students participated in the Spring 2011 CELLA, comprising 26% of all those tested in the state. M-DCPS results generally

mirrored those of the state, with average total CELLA scores increasing in senior high but decreasing at the elementary and middle school levels. Districtwide increases for 2010 to 2011 are Listening/Speaking scores and were seen in the majority of the grades tested (grades 4, 5, and 8-12).

Highlights of the results, as well as district and state summary results by grade level and area tested, are provided as attachments to this memorandum. In addition, a guide to help clarify the meaning of the proficiency levels and scale scores is provided. District, State, and School Summary Reports are available online at: <http://oada.dadeschools.net/CELLA/CELLA.asp>. District and school reports have been distributed to schools along with individual student reports to be distributed to the students' parents and retained in students' cumulative records.

If 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

**Highlights of the Florida Department of Education's
Spring 2011 Comprehensive English Language Learning Assessment (CELLA)
Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS)
Kindergarten – Grade 12**

- Improvement on CELLA was seen at the high school level across nearly every indicator from 2010 to 2011.
- Substantial increases were also seen in Listening/Speaking in both average scale scores and the percent scoring proficient in Grades 9 through 12.
- More than a quarter of all English language learners (ELLs) tested statewide on the Spring 2011 CELLA administration were from the M-DCPS.
 - Approximately half of the District's ELL students were students in grades K -2.
- From 2010 to 2011, increases were seen in M-DCPS students' average scale scores in Listening and Speaking in the majority of the grades tested (Grades 4, 5, and 8 through 12).
- Decreases were seen in the mean scale score in the elementary grades mirroring decreases shown statewide from 2010 to 2011.
- Decreases were seen in nearly every grade level from 2010-2011 in the percent scoring proficient in writing, except grades 9, 10, and 12, which increased slightly.

Table 1
 Comprehensive English Language Learning Assessment (CELLA)
 District and State, 2010 and 2011
 Mean Scale Score, by Grade

Grade	District vs. State	Listening/Speaking					Reading					Writing					Total		
		2010		2011		10-11	2010		2011		10-11	2010		2011		10-11	2010	2011	09-10
		N	Scale Score	N	Scale Score	Difference	N	Scale Score	N	Scale Score	Difference	N	Scale Score	N	Scale Score	Difference	Average Scale Score	Average Scale Score	Difference
K	M-DCPS	10,988	652	10,069	647	-5	10,900	553	10,056	542	-11	11,024	627	10,016	624	-3	1835	1814	-21
	Florida	37,114	652	37,502	647	-5	36,749	544	37,435	538	-6	37,093	624	37,202	620	-4	1823	1806	-17
1	M-DCPS	11,973	681	11,231	678	-3	11,961	662	11,232	651	-11	12,024	676	11,170	672	-4	2022	2001	-21
	Florida	36,216	679	37,080	676	-3	36,147	658	37,101	648	-10	36,295	672	36,881	668	-4	2011	1993	-18
2	M-DCPS	10,532	696	9,695	693	-3	10,494	695	9,641	686	-9	10,562	694	9,626	687	-7	2089	2067	-22
	Florida	32,747	695	32,093	694	-1	32,572	693	31,934	689	-4	32,836	691	31,924	688	-3	2082	2073	-9
3	M-DCPS	7,286	706	6,670	701	-5	7,161	707	6,667	693	-14	7,288	702	6,601	690	-12	2120	2085	-35
	Florida	27,012	707	26,234	706	-1	26,583	710	26,214	700	-10	27,058	704	26,003	697	-7	2124	2104	-20
4	M-DCPS	3,928	709	4,356	712	3	3,872	717	4,344	712	-5	3,951	710	4,291	705	-5	2142	2131	-11
	Florida	20,024	719	19,913	720	1	19,774	726	19,893	721	-5	20,177	718	19,753	714	-4	2167	2157	-10
5	M-DCPS	2,998	710	3,498	715	5	2,920	724	3,498	720	-4	3,007	712	3,444	708	-4	2154	2147	-7
	Florida	16,553	725	16,696	728	3	16,260	735	16,676	732	-3	16,593	722	16,556	719	-3	2187	2181	-6
6	M-DCPS	2,718	710	2,782	707	-3	2,771	721	2,784	719	-2	2,718	711	2,713	708	-3	2147	2138	-9
	Florida	13,536	730	12,661	724	-6	13,797	732	12,671	729	-3	13,626	723	12,527	723	0	2190	2179	-11
7	M-DCPS	2,553	711	2,723	707	-4	2,607	726	2,706	726	0	2,555	715	2,648	712	-3	2158	2149	-9
	Florida	11,879	731	11,344	725	-6	12,135	736	11,338	734	-2	12,021	726	11,181	725	-1	2197	2186	-11
8	M-DCPS	2,588	714	2,612	715	1	2,630	732	2,611	733	1	2,573	720	2,567	717	-3	2172	2168	-4
	Florida	11,303	735	10,944	731	-4	11,518	741	10,967	741	0	11,377	730	10,819	730	0	2210	2204	-6
9	M-DCPS	2,703	707	2,977	712	5	2,752	738	2,990	740	2	2,655	712	2,901	713	1	2165	2171	6
	Florida	11,178	727	10,957	728	1	11,404	745	11,030	746	1	11,212	722	10,787	721	-1	2199	2198	-1
10	M-DCPS	2,620	712	2,745	719	7	2,674	746	2,758	747	1	2,599	716	2,694	718	2	2181	2188	7
	Florida	10,262	731	10,337	733	2	10,527	751	10,390	752	1	10,370	725	10,224	726	1	2211	2214	3
11	M-DCPS	2,553	723	2,316	727	4	2,584	755	2,322	755	0	2,538	725	2,276	722	-3	2207	2207	0
	Florida	9,920	735	9,059	740	5	10,145	755	9,109	758	3	10,021	728	9,002	729	1	2222	2228	6
12	M-DCPS	1,785	728	1,958	737	9	1,807	754	1,966	759	5	1,791	725	1,929	726	1	2210	2225	15
	Florida	6,989	740	7,393	746	6	7,188	756	7,451	760	4	7,133	729	7,369	731	2	2227	2239	12

Table 2
 Comprehensive English Language Learning Assessment (CELLA)
 District 2010 and 2011
 Current ELL Students Scoring Proficient, by Grade Level

Grade	District vs. State	Listening/Speaking					Reading					Writing				
		2010		2011		10-11 Difference	2010		2011		10-11 Difference	2010		2011		10-11 Difference
		N	Percent Proficient	N	Percent Proficient		N	Percent Proficient	N	Percent Proficient		N	Percent Proficient	N	Percent Proficient	
K	M-DCPS	2,531	23%	2,190	22%	-1%	300	3%	143	1%	-2%	349	3%	200	2%	-1%
	Florida	7,878	21%	7,387	20%	-1%	877	2%	469	1%	-1%	931	3%	573	2%	-1%
1	M-DCPS	7,501	63%	6,615	59%	-4%	4,278	36%	2,859	25%	-11%	4,993	42%	3,593	32%	-10%
	Florida	21,840	60%	21,051	57%	-3%	11,354	31%	8,656	23%	-8%	12,550	35%	9,619	26%	-9%
2	M-DCPS	8,517	81%	7,577	78%	-3%	6,690	64%	5,814	60%	-4%	6,253	59%	5,064	53%	-6%
	Florida	26,483	81%	25,656	80%	-1%	20,134	62%	19,621	61%	-1%	17,786	54%	17,142	54%	0%
3	M-DCPS	2,263	31%	2,046	31%	0%	1,898	27%	544	8%	-19%	1,762	24%	415	6%	-18%
	Florida	8,064	30%	8,886	34%	4%	6,818	26%	3,356	13%	-13%	6,545	24%	3,260	13%	-11%
4	M-DCPS	1,518	39%	2,141	49%	10%	1,539	40%	1,180	27%	-13%	1,474	37%	912	21%	-16%
	Florida	9,749	49%	11,271	57%	8%	9,441	48%	6,849	34%	-14%	8,810	44%	6,157	31%	-13%
5	M-DCPS	1,333	44%	1,921	55%	11%	1,447	50%	1,431	41%	-9%	1,238	41%	1,034	30%	-11%
	Florida	9,640	58%	10,990	66%	8%	9,746	60%	8,535	51%	-9%	8,528	51%	6,839	41%	-10%
6	M-DCPS	1,126	41%	885	32%	-9%	585	21%	452	16%	-5%	609	22%	365	13%	-9%
	Florida	7,679	57%	5,659	45%	-12%	3,332	24%	2,534	20%	-4%	3,783	28%	2,826	23%	-5%
7	M-DCPS	1,048	41%	918	34%	-7%	624	24%	599	22%	-2%	683	27%	446	17%	-10%
	Florida	6,857	58%	5,364	47%	-11%	3,610	30%	2,953	26%	-4%	3,904	32%	3,056	27%	-5%
8	M-DCPS	1,074	41%	1,029	39%	-2%	758	29%	736	28%	-1%	765	30%	573	22%	-8%
	Florida	6,746	60%	5,734	52%	-8%	4,221	37%	3,796	35%	-2%	4,283	38%	3,676	34%	-4%
9	M-DCPS	838	31%	1,071	36%	5%	452	16%	509	17%	1%	484	18%	583	20%	2%
	Florida	5,251	47%	5,347	49%	2%	1,962	17%	2,145	19%	2%	2,856	25%	2,680	25%	0%
10	M-DCPS	839	32%	1,083	39%	7%	553	21%	656	24%	3%	545	21%	616	23%	2%
	Florida	4,994	49%	5,340	52%	3%	2,392	23%	2,734	26%	3%	3,005	29%	2,989	29%	0%
11	M-DCPS	984	39%	1,026	44%	5%	694	27%	636	27%	0%	665	26%	538	24%	-2%
	Florida	5,011	51%	4,999	55%	4%	2,630	26%	2,891	32%	6%	3,084	31%	2,895	32%	1%
12	M-DCPS	749	42%	969	49%	7%	467	26%	651	33%	7%	459	26%	521	27%	1%
	Florida	3,716	53%	4,370	59%	6%	1,784	25%	2,501	34%	9%	2,143	30%	2,393	32%	2%

Note: Percentages of ELL students scoring proficient are calculated from edited data and the number of students may differ from that noted in Table 1.