

MEMORANDUM

June 16, 2014

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

FROM: Alberto M. Carvalho, Superintendent of Schools *AMC/vm*

SUBJECT: STATE RELEASE OF RESULTS FOR THE SPRING 2014 FLORIDA END-OF-COURSE (EOC) ASSESSMENTS

Today the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) released summary results from the Spring 2014 administration of the Florida Algebra 1, Biology 1, Civics, Geometry, and United States (U.S.) History End-of-Course (EOC) assessments. Specifically, School, District, and State Summary Reports were released today for all subjects, while the student-level results for Algebra 1, Civics, and U.S. History were released to schools last week, and student-level results for Biology 1 and Geometry were released today. The EOC assessments measure student achievement of the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards as outlined in the course descriptions.

Florida is transitioning from traditional comprehensive assessments at the high school level (i.e., the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test) to EOC assessments that specifically target content in high school courses. The first EOC in this series was administered in the 2010-2011 school year to students enrolled in an Algebra 1 course, followed by Biology 1 and Geometry in the 2011-2012 school year, U.S. History in 2012-2013, and Civics in 2013-2014.

Algebra 1, Biology 1, Geometry, and U.S. History results are presented in terms of scaled scores which can range from 325 to 475 and Achievement Levels which range from 1 (low) to 5 (high). Level 3 or higher is "passing" for EOC assessments. Middle school students' scores on the Civics EOC assessment are reported as T-Scores, which can range from 20 – 80, in this first year of administration, with an additional indicator indicating whether the student scored in the low, middle, or high third in comparison to all students participating statewide.

In Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS), District and state results are provided as an attachment, including the highlights that follow.

- On all three mathematics and science EOC assessments, M-DCPS students' three percentage point improvement from 2013 to 2014 outpaced the state and most other large districts.
- On the Algebra 1 EOC, which is required for high school graduation, 69% of M-DCPS students passed on their first attempt – three percentage points higher than those of their counterparts statewide.

- In Biology 1 and Geometry, 66% and 63% respectively scored in Levels 3 or above.
- Over half of M-DCPS students taking the U.S. History EOC in 2014 scored in Levels 3 through 5.
- During the first year of full administration of the Civics EOC, the percentage of middle school students scoring in the highest third was 32%.
- Nearly 8,000 M-DCPS students took the Algebra 1 EOC as a retake administration, which is required for graduation with a standard high school promotion.

The FLDOE issued a press release this morning congratulating both Miami-Dade and Broward for improved student performance. A copy of the State's press release as well as the District's media alert is attached.

Complete District, State, and School Summary Reports will also be made available on the FLDOE website at <http://fcats.fldoe.org/mediapacket/2014/default.asp>. In addition, information on the scoring process is provided in *Understanding Florida End-of-Course Assessment Scores* on the FLDOE website. School shipments of individual student reports for the EOC assessments will be forwarded to schools as soon as they are received.

If you have any questions about the attached results, please contact Ms. Marie Izquierdo, Chief Academic Officer, Office of Academics and Transformation, at 305 995-1451, or 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

Summary of District and State Results for the Spring 2014 Florida End-of-Course (EOC) Assessments

On June 16, 2014, the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) released school, District, and state summary data from the Spring 2014 administration of Florida's End-of-Course (EOC) assessments in Algebra 1, Biology 1, Civics, Geometry, and United States (U.S.) History. In M-DCPS, 29,911 students took the Algebra 1 EOC; 27,593 took the Biology 1 EOC; 28,763 took the Geometry EOC; 21,904 took the U.S. History EOC; and 26,263 took the Civics EOC. The tables that follow provide a summary of the data for students in Grades 7 through 12 who participated in these assessments.

The FLDOE is transitioning from comprehensive assessments in mathematics and science (i.e., Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test) to EOC assessments for certain high school courses. The first course to transition to End-of-Course testing in Florida was Algebra 1, administered for the first time in 2010-2011, followed by Geometry and Biology 1 in 2011-2012, and U.S. History last year. This spring marks the first administration of Civics. The EOC assessments measure student achievement of the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards, as outlined in the associated course descriptions. EOC assessments are delivered via a computer-based testing (CBT) platform for all students. Paper-based tests (regular and Braille) are provided for eligible students with disabilities that require such accommodations as documented on a current Individual Education Plan (IEP) or Section 504 Plan. In addition, large print on paper is available for eligible students as documented on a current IEP or Section 504 Plan as a Unique Accommodation Request that requires FLDOE approval with proper supporting documentation.

Please note that the EOC assessments are NOT census administrations for a particular grade level. All students enrolled in one of the targeted courses, or an equivalent, must participate in the EOC administration, regardless of the students' grade level. As such, accelerated middle school students participate, as well as senior high students. Thus, the number of students tested can vary from grade to grade, year to year, and school to school. The EOC assessments are delivered via a CBT platform, except to students with allowable accommodations documented on an IEP or Section 504 Plan.

Students who entered grade 9 in the 2011-2012 school year (i.e. 2011-2012 cohort) and beyond are required to earn a passing score on the Algebra 1 EOC for high school graduation. All EOC results must be included as 30 percent of the final course grade beginning in the 2013-2014 school year.

Test results for the Algebra 1, Biology 1, Geometry, and U.S. History are reported using developmental scale scores which can range from 325 to 475. In addition to the scale scores, results are also reported in terms of Achievement Levels, which can range from Level 1 (low) to Level 5 (high). Level 3 represents a "passing" score. Summaries of the results for first-time test takers in Algebra 1, Biology 1, Geometry (2013-2014), and U.S. History (2014) are presented in Tables 1 through 4 by grade level.

During this first year of administration of Civics, T-Scores are reported, which can range from 20 to 80. An additional indicator is provided to indicate whether a student scored in the low (1), middle (2), or upper third (3) of all students tested statewide. A new Civics EOC scale will be established this winter that will be used in subsequent years. A summary of the 2014 results in Civics is provided in Table 5.

By Florida Statute (s. 1003.428, FS), students entering grade 9 in the 2011-2012 school year and moving forward must achieve a passing score on the Algebra 1 EOC assessment (Achievement Level 3 or above, or a scale score 399 or higher) to meet graduation requirements. However, students in earlier cohorts need only have their score on the Algebra 1 EOC used to calculate 30 percent of their final course grade. All EOC results must be included as 30 percent of the final course grade beginning this school year.

Students have multiple opportunities to retake the Algebra 1 EOC in subsequent years to achieve a passing score or may apply the Postsecondary Education Readiness Test comparative score of 97 on the mathematics portion of the test to meet the test requirement for graduation. In addition, students who fail an EOC-eligible course have the opportunity to retake the course and the test to improve their grade.

Table 6 presents the Algebra 1 EOC results for students participating in a retake administration and the percentage passing from 2013 through 2014. Caution must be taken in interpreting the results of retake administrations as the reasons for participation vary widely among schools and districts. Factors impacting participation rates include passing rates in previous administrations, credit accrual requirements for various cohorts, and trends/policies regarding enrollment into courses by grade level.

Table 7 provides a comparison of M-DCPS students' performance on the three EOC assessments in mathematics and science with the performance of students statewide and in other selected districts.

Table 1
Algebra 1 End-of-Course Assessment: District and State, 2013 and 2014
Mean Scale Score and Percentages of First-Time Test Takers
Scoring at Each Achievement Level, by Grade

Algebra 1	2014							Levels 3-5		Difference 2013 to 2014
	Number Tested	Mean Scale Score	Percentages at Each Achievement Level							
			1	2	3	4	5	2013	2014	
District										
Grade 7	3,400	429	1	7	34	22	36	95	92	-3
Grade 8	9,289	424	1	10	41	22	26	89	89	0
Grade 9	16,473	398	17	29	39	10	5	54	54	0
Grade 10	376	385	35	31	22	7	5	30	34	+4
Grade 11	277	393	30	23	25	11	10	43	47	+4
Grade 12	57	396	30	19	23	11	18	25	51	+26
Total	29,911	409	11	20	39	15	15	66	69	+3
State										
Grade 7	18,785	433	1	5	28	22	44	96	94	-2
Grade 8	63,035	423	2	10	41	23	26	90	89	-1
Grade 9	113,348	397	17	31	40	9	4	52	52	0
Grade 10	8,619	386	29	37	27	4	3	29	33	+4
Grade 11	2,728	397	24	26	26	9	14	37	50	+13
Grade 12	901	396	23	29	28	10	10	37	49	+12
Total	207,642	408	11	22	38	14	14	64	66	+2

Note: The totals include a small number of students in grades 6, 12 and adult. Results include all students testing for the first time, including students with disabilities and English language learners.

Table 2
Biology 1 End-of-Course Assessment: District and State, 2013 and 2014
Mean Scale Score and Percentages of First-Time Test Takers
Scoring at Each Achievement Level, by Grade

Biology 1	Number Tested	Mean Scale Score	Percentages at Each Achievement Level					Levels 3-5		Difference 2013 to 2014
			1	2	3	4	5	2013	2014	
District										
Grade 8	2,126	424	0	4	40	20	35	94	95	+1
Grade 9	7,991	416	3	12	41	19	26	86	85	-1
Grade 10	16,907	394	16	31	38	9	7	51	53	+2
Grade 11	376	396	24	25	23	9	20	46	51	+5
Grade 12	168	397	20	26	27	11	15	32	54	+22
Total	27,593	403	11	23	38	13	15	63	66	+3
State										
Grade 8	3,858	426	1	5	34	20	40	93	94	+1
Grade 9	86,093	414	5	15	38	17	26	80	80	0
Grade 10	89,360	396	14	31	38	9	8	55	56	+1
Grade 11	6,741	391	19	34	34	8	6	44	48	+4
Grade 12	1,758	392	20	32	30	9	9	38	48	+10
Total	187,887	405	9	23	38	13	17	67	68	+1

Note: The totals include a small number of students in grades 7 and adult. Results include all students testing for the first time, including students with disabilities and English language learners.

Table 3
Geometry End-of-Course Assessment: District and State, 2013 and 2014
Mean Scale Score and Percentages of First-Time Test Takers
Scoring at Each Achievement Level, by Grade

Geometry	Number Tested	Mean Scale Score	Percentages at Each Achievement Level					Levels 3-5		Difference 2013 to 2014
			1	2	3	4	5	2013	2014	
District										
Grade 8	2,459	431	0	3	20	32	45	97	97	0
Grade 9	7,476	416	3	12	32	31	22	88	85	-3
Grade 10	18,371	392	20	30	31	14	5	50	51	+1
Grade 11	345	376	39	35	16	6	3	26	26	0
Grade 12	70	375	36	44	16	3	1	19	20	+1
Total	28,763	401	14	23	30	20	13	60	63	+3
State										
Grade 8	12,720	435	0	3	14	29	54	97	97	0
Grade 9	50,002	419	3	10	30	33	24	88	87	-1
Grade 10	95,554	395	15	31	34	15	5	53	54	+1
Grade 11	15,131	380	29	41	23	6	1	31	30	-1
Grade 12	3,153	378	32	40	21	6	1	30	28	-2
Total	176,778	403	12	24	30	20	14	64	64	0

Note: The totals include a small number of students in grades 7 and adult. Results include all students testing for the first time, including students with disabilities and English language learners.

Table 4
United States (U.S.) History End-of-Course Assessment: District and State, 2014
Mean Scale Score and Percentages of First-Time Test Takers
Scoring at Each Achievement Level, by Grade

US History	Number Tested	Mean Scale Score	Percentages at Each Achievement Level					Levels 3-5
			1	2	3	4	5	
District								
Grade 10	491	386	39	21	20	12	7	40
Grade 11	21,021	400	22	20	26	17	14	58
Grade 12	335	399	25	16	27	19	14	59
Total	21,904	399	22	20	26	17	14	57
State								
Grade 10	14,015	403	18	20	27	19	16	62
Grade 11	136,039	406	15	19	28	20	18	66
Grade 12	5,291	403	20	18	25	20	18	62
Total	156,964	406	16	19	27	20	18	65

Note: The totals include a small number of students in grade 9. Results include all students testing for the first time, including students with disabilities and English language learners.

Table 5
Civics End-of-Course Assessment: District and State, 2014
Number Tested, Mean T-Score, and Percent by Thirds, by Grade

Civics	Number Tested	Mean T-Score	Statewide Comparison by Thirds		
			Low (1)	Middle (2)	High (3)
District					
Grade 7	26,263	48	38	30	32
Grade 8	145	44	47	37	16
Total	26,414	48	38	30	32
State					
Grade 7	198,699	50	33	32	35
Grade 8	1,183	46	47	25	29
Total	200,429	50	33	32	35

Note: The totals include a small number of students in grades 6 and 9. Results include all students testing for the first time, including students with disabilities and English language learners.

Table 6
Algebra 1 End-of-Course Retake
District and State: 2013 and 2014
Number Tested and Percent Passing

ALGEBRA 1	Number Tested		Percent Passing		
	2013	2014	2013	2014	Difference 2013 to 2014
District	5,673	8,224	15	14	-1
State	35,868	54,260	22	19	-3

Table 7

Florida End-of-Course Assessments: Algebra 1, Biology 1, Geometry
Percentages of Students Scoring in Achievement Levels 3 through 5
Florida, Miami-Dade, and Selected Districts, 2013 and 2014

	Florida			Miami-Dade			Broward			Duval			Hillsborough			Orange			Palm Beach		
	Percent		Δ	Percent		Δ	Percent		Δ	Percent		Δ	Percent		Δ	Percent		Δ	Percent		Δ
	2013	2014		2013	2014		2013	2014		2013	2014		2013	2014		2013	2014		2013	2014	
Algebra 1	64	66	+2	66	69	+3	66	68	+2	60	58	-2	61	64	+3	66	62	-4	68	71	+3
Biology 1	67	68	+1	63	66	+3	66	65	-1	67	63	-4	64	64	0	69	68	-1	68	70	+2
Geometry	64	64	0	60	63	+3	65	65	0	56	55	-1	68	64	-4	61	67	+6	64	69	+5
Total			+3			+9			+1			-7			-1			+1			+10

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SOUTH FLORIDA SCHOOL DISTRICTS SHOW IMPROVEMENT ON END-OF-COURSE ASSESSMENTS

TALLAHASSEE, Fla., June 16, 2014 – Commissioner of Education Pam Stewart today recognized school districts in South Florida for improved student performance on state end-of-course (EOC) assessments in Algebra 1, Geometry, Biology 1 and U.S. History.

"I am so appreciative of Florida's teachers and school leaders who have worked incredibly hard this year to improve student performance," said Commissioner Stewart. "Their increased focus and dedication will ensure Florida's students are prepared for success in college, a career and in life."

- **Miami-Dade County** is one of 13 districts in the state to improve from 2013 in all four assessment areas released today. U.S. History scores jumped 13 percentage points, Geometry scores increased by four percentage points and both Algebra 1 and Biology 1 scores went up three percentage points.
- **Broward County** increased from 2013 in two of four assessment areas released today, including U.S. History scores improving by eight percentage points.

Overall, statewide student achievement improved in all of the EOC assessment areas released today. Compared to last year, students improved in U.S. History by 10 percentage points, followed by a two percentage point increase in Biology 1 and a one percentage point increase in both Algebra 1 and Geometry.

The Algebra 1 EOC was administered for the first time in spring 2011, the Biology 1 and Geometry EOCs were first administered in spring 2012 and the U.S. History EOC was administered for the first time in spring 2013. More information about EOCs can be found at [Florida End-of-Course Assessments](#).

The 2014 End-of-Course assessment results are available at [2014 Statewide Assessment Scores](#).

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For more information about the Florida Department of Education, visit www.fldoe.org.

NEWS ALERT



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Office of Public Relations • 1450 N.E. 2nd Avenue, Miami, FL 33132 • 305-995-1126 • dadeschools.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT: John Schuster

305-995-1126

M-DCPS STUDENTS SHOW INCREASE IN SCORES ON MATHEMATICS, SCIENCE EOC ASSESSMENTS, OUTPACE THE STATE

MIAMI – Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) students showed improvement on mathematics and science End of Course (EOC) exams, the Florida Department of Education reported on Monday. The three percentage point increase on all three mathematics and science EOC assessments outpaced the state from 2013 to 2014.

On the Algebra 1 EOC, which is required for high school graduation, 69 percent of M-DCPS students passed on their first attempt – three percentage points higher than their counterparts statewide. In Biology 1 and Geometry, 66 percent and 63 percent respectively scored in Levels 3 or above.

“I am pleased that we are moving in the right direction, with continued advancements in standardized testing,” said Superintendent of Schools Alberto M. Carvalho. “Nevertheless, we will not rest until we are able to eliminate existing achievement gaps, in order to accomplish optimal results,” he added.

With regard to social sciences, more than half of M-DCPS students taking the U.S. History EOC in 2014 scored in Levels 3 through 5. During the first year of full administration of the Civics EOC, the percentage of middle school students scoring in the highest third was 32 percent, on par with expectations.

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