

MEMORANDUM

June 8, 2011

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

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

SUBJECT: STATE RELEASE OF RESULTS FOR THE SPRING 2011 FLORIDA ALGEBRA 1 END-OF-COURSE (EOC) ASSESSMENT

Today the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) released results from the Spring 2011 administration of the Florida Algebra 1 End-of-Course (EOC) Assessment. Specifically, student listings of results and a State Report of Districts were provided for the Algebra 1 EOC for all students enrolled in Algebra 1 or an equivalent course who took the test. The attached summary of Miami-Dade County School results has been prepared by the Office of Assessment, Research, and Data Analysis.

Florida is transitioning from traditional comprehensive assessments at the high school level (Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test), to end-of-course assessments that specifically target content in high school courses. The state's EOC program is designed to be delivered via a computer-based testing (CBT) platform, except for students with allowable accommodations. All students enrolled in Algebra 1 or an equivalent course during the 2010-11 school year participated in this administration, which represents the first in this new series of statewide assessments. The Algebra 1 EOC, in effect, replaces Grade 9 FCAT Mathematics, which was discontinued this year, and most M-DCPS students in Grade 9 are enrolled in an Algebra 1 course.

In 2011 during the first year of administration, students' scores will be reported as T-Scores (ranging 20 – 80), with an additional indicator of whether the student scored in the low, middle or high third in comparison to the students participating statewide. In addition, the Algebra 1 scores for Grade 9 students *only* will be included as 30 percent of their final Algebra 1 course grade. In subsequent years, Achievement Levels and passing scores will be set and reported, and students will need to pass the test to receive credit for the course, as required to meet graduation requirements.

In Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS), 28,066 students participated in the Algebra 1 EOC. A table summarizing District results is provided as an attachment, along with highlights, including the following:

- Overall, 28 percent of students scored in the upper third compared to all students tested statewide.
- The majority of the participating M-DCPS middle school students scored in the highest third statewide.

As additional reports become available, they will be posted online at: <http://oada.dadeschools.net/FCAT/FCAT.asp>. Principals can access school lists of students' results on the test contractor's secure website at www.pearsonaccess.com/fl. In addition, information on the scoring process is provided in *Understanding Florida End-of-Course Assessment Scores* at <http://fcats.fldoe.org/eoc/pdf/ueocs.pdf>. School shipments of individual student reports for the Algebra 1 EOC will be forwarded to schools as soon as they are received.

Should you have any questions about the attached Algebra 1 EOC 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 Florida Algebra 1 End-of-Course (EOC) Assessment
Miami-Dade County Public Schools**

- Overall, 28 percent of the M-DCPS students scored in the upper third compared to all students tested statewide.

- The majority of 8,228 M-DCPS middle school students, who took Algebra 1 on an accelerated basis, scored in the highest third on the Algebra 1 EOC, when compared to all students tested statewide.
 - 65 Percent of the M-DCPS 7th Grade students scored in the highest third.
 - 59 Percent of the M-DCPS 8th Grade students scored in the highest third.

- Grade 9 students comprised the largest group tested, with 64% of all enrolled Grade 9 students participating.
 - 15 Percent scored in the high third,
 - 33 Percent in the middle third, and
 - 51 Percent scored in the low third.

Summary of District and State Results for the Spring 2011 Florida Algebra 1 End-of-Course (EOC) Assessment

On June 8, 2011, the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) released State and District summary data from the Spring 2011 administration of Florida's new Algebra 1 End-of-Course Assessment. The table that follows provides a summary of the data for students in Grades 7 through 12 compiled by the District's Office of Assessment, Research, and Data Analysis (ARDA).

The Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) is transitioning to end-of-course (EOC) assessments for certain high school courses. The first course to transition to end-of-course testing in Florida is Algebra 1, administered as a baseline assessment in 2010-11, to be followed by Biology I and Geometry EOC Assessments being phased in during the 2011-12 school year. The Algebra 1 EOC Assessment measures student achievement of the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards (NGSSS), as outlined in the Algebra 1 course description. The Algebra 1 EOC was delivered via a computer-based testing (CBT) platform for all students. Paper-based tests (regular, large print, and Braille) were provided for students with disabilities that require such accommodations as documented on a current Individual Education Plan (IEP) or Section 504 Plan.

Please note that the Algebra 1 EOC is NOT a census administration: not all students in a specific grade level participate in the EOC Assessment, only eligible students enrolled in Algebra 1 or an equivalent course. As such, students at any grade level who are enrolled in the course may take the test, typically Grades 7 through 12. Thus, the number of students tested can vary from grade to grade, year to year, and school to school.

During the first year of administration, T-Scores will be reported, which can range from 20 to 80. In addition, a score is provided to indicate whether a student has scored in the low (1), middle (2), or upper third (3) of all students tested statewide.

By Florida Statute (s. 1003.428, FS), the Algebra 1 EOC Assessment score must be used to calculate 30 percent of the final grade in Algebra 1 or an equivalent course for students who entered Grade 9 in the 2010-11 school year. The ARDA will complete this process and update Final Grades as soon as the data are edited and posted. Applicable students' report cards will not include an Algebra 1 Final Grade, as noted by a comment, and a ConnectEd message will be sent when Algebra 1 Final Grades are posted on the Portal.

A new Algebra 1 EOC scale will be established this fall that will be used in subsequent years and will become the new baseline for school accountability. In addition, when the Algebra 1 EOC scale is established, a passing score will be determined. Beginning with students entering Grade 9 in the 2011-12 school year, all students enrolled in Algebra 1 or an equivalent course must earn a passing score on the Algebra 1 EOC Assessment in order to earn course credit, as required to meet graduation requirements.

Students will have multiple opportunities to retake the Algebra 1 EOC assessment in subsequent years to achieve a passing score and earn the required high school credit for Algebra 1 prior to graduation.

Table 1 lists the numbers of M-DCPS students in Grades 7 through 12 who tested, the mean T-score for 2011, and the percentages scoring in the high, middle, and low statewide categories, by grade level. State and District summary scores across all tested grade levels are also presented in the table.

Table 1
2011 Florida Algebra I End-of-Course (EOC) Assessment
Grades 7 - 12: Miami-Dade County Public Schools
Number Tested, Mean T-Score, and Percent by Thirds

	Number Tested	Mean T-Score	Statewide Comparison by Thirds		
			Low (1)	Middle (2)	High (3)
M-DCPS	28,066*	47	40%	32%	28%
Grade 7	2,048	57	9%	26%	65%
Grade 8	6,180	56	10%	31%	59%
Grade 9	18,286	44	51%	33%	15%
Grade 10	940	39	65%	26%	9%
Grade 11	299	41	58%	32%	10%
Grade 12	263	40	65%	21%	14%
FLORIDA	210,004	49	32%	33%	35%

* Does not include small numbers of students in Grade 6 and Adult Education programs.