

MEMORANDUM

April 27, 2005

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

FROM: Rudolph F. Crew, Superintendent of Schools *Rudolph F. Crew as*

SUBJECT: **STATE RELEASE OF THE 2005 FLORIDA COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT TEST (FCAT) WRITING, GRADES 4, 8, AND 10 RESULTS**

Late Wednesday, Governor Bush and the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) unexpectedly released the Spring 2005 Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) Writing results for students in grades 4, 8, and 10. More than 83,000 Miami-Dade County Public School (M-DCPS) students participated in the 2005 FCAT Writing assessment. Specifically, 26,594 students tested at grade 4, 28,540 students tested at grade 8 and 28,194 students tested at grade 10. The grade 4, 8, and 10 FCAT Writing reports released today provide summary data based on the scores of **all students tested**. FLDOE will release the 2005 School Performance Grades in late June.

The Spring 2005 grades 4, 8, and 10 FCAT Writing district and state summary scores are presented in the attachment, *District Highlights and Summary Tables*, included with this memorandum. The enclosed *Spring 2005 FCAT Writing District Report of Schools* (one report each for grades 4, 8, and 10) provides the following information for each school in M-DCPS for expository writing, narrative/persuasive writing, and both types of writing combined: number of students tested, mean score, number and percent earning each score point, and the percent and number of papers that were unscorable.

School shipments of the 2005 FCAT Writing school and individual student reports have been received in the District. These are being processed and will be delivered to schools as soon as possible.

As you may know, the state released individual student scores for grade 3 FCAT Sunshine State Standards (SSS) Reading and Mathematics earlier than the other FCAT scores to allow schools to begin the process of determining the potential promotion status of 3rd grade students. An internal preliminary analysis of these data indicates that there are substantial improvements in student performance this school year. We expect the state to release official results for 3rd grade late next week.

The FCAT Norm Referenced Test (NRT) scores for students in grades 3-10, the FCAT SSS Reading and Mathematics scores for students in grades 4-10, and the FCAT SSS Science results for students in grades 5, 8, and 11 also are due to be released in May.

Should you have any questions about the attached results, please contact Dr. Kriner Cash, Chief, Accountability and Systemwide Performance, at 305 995-1814.

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Attachment
Enclosure

cc: School Board Attorney
Superintendent's Senior Staff
Ms. Gisela Feild
Dr. Natalie Roca
Assessment and Data Analysis Staff