

**THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**

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June 12, 2002

Revised 08/22/2002

Approved memorandum with signatures is on file.

TO: School Board Members

FROM: Frank Till
Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: **2002 GRADING OF SCHOOLS**

Today the Florida Department of Education released the 2001-2002 school grades. As you recall, this year the State dramatically revised the grading formula to include individual student learning gains. In addition, higher standards were applied in the scoring of the FCAT. I am pleased to report that the results are outstanding. **Overall districtwide grades assigned to our schools reflect dramatic increases in the number of schools earning the highest grades of A and B from 83 last year to 124 this year.** Specifically, as you will see in the chart below:

- 48 49 elementary, 20 middle, ~~and~~ 5 high schools, and one combination middle/high schools received a grade of A for a total of 73 75 schools, up from 61 last year, and
- 39 38 elementary, 7 middle, and 4 high schools received a grade of B for a total of 50 49 schools, up from 22 last year.

Grade	Elementary		Middle		High		Total	
	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002
A	52	<u>48 49</u>	5	20	4	5	61	<u>73 75*</u>
B	14	<u>39 38</u>	8	7	0	4	22	<u>50 49</u>
C	46	31	20	10	16	12	82	53
D	15	11	3	0	7	5	25	16
F	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1

Note: Data include all schools receiving a school grade.

*One combination middle/high school received a grade of A.

Equally as important as the number of schools earning the highest grades of A and B is the movement of schools up the grading ladder. **That is, 41 (32%) elementary schools, 22 (59%) middle schools and 5 (19%) high schools improved their grade by at least one letter grade.**

In reviewing the results by level, the greatest increase is found to be in the number of middle schools moving to a grade of A: from 5 last year to 20 this year. Furthermore, no middle school earned less than a C for 2001-2002.

Even with these results - a large number of school grades at the highest categories of A and B and the significant number of schools that increased at least one grade level - we know that the work is not finished. ~~Nineteen~~ Seventeen of our schools, 48 16 D and 1 F, still demand our intensive support. Steps are already underway to review the data and identify support needed to ensure increased learning gains for their students.

An Information Brief that provides a further look at school data will be provided by June 19, 2002. School grades can be accessed through the Florida Department of Education website: www.firn.edu/doe/schoolgrades. This website provides a report for all schools who received a school grade. This report provides the percent of students: (1) meeting high

standards in reading, mathematics, and writing, (2) making learning gains in reading and mathematics, and (3) in the lowest 25% in reading in the school that make adequate progress. Additionally, attached is the 2002 School Accountability Report Guide Sheet that explains how school grades are determined.

Congratulations to our students, their parents and our staff for their tremendous efforts which resulted in these outstanding school grades. **If you have questions regarding this release, please contact Dr. Katherine Blasik at (954) 760-7342, or Anne Dilgen, Director of Student Assessment, at (954) 712-1748.**

FT/KAB:jp
Attachment

cc: Senior Management
Area Directors
Diane Carr, Executive Director, Core Curriculum
Frank Vodolo, Executive Director, Educational Programs
Principals
PTA
DAC
ESE Advisory
ESOL Advisory