

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

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Approved memorandum with signatures is on file.

May 15, 2003

TO: School Board Members

FROM: Katherine Blasik, Ph.D., Assistant Superintendent
Office of Research and Evaluation

VIA: Frank Till
Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: **FLORIDA COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT TEST (FCAT) RESULTS
FOR 2003, Grades 3-10**

In early May, the Florida Department of Education released the 2003 FCAT Writing results for grades 4, 8, and 10 and results for Grade 3 Reading and Mathematics FCAT subtests. You will recall that Broward students performed as well or better than students State-wide in all grade levels of the Writing assessment. Reading and Mathematics scores for Grade 3 students demonstrated consistency over a two year period in Broward, and the percentage of Broward third graders who scored at Achievement Levels three or above were among the highest in Florida.

Today, the Florida Department of Education released State-wide and individual district results for 2003 on the FCAT subtests of Reading, Mathematics, and Science. Reading and Mathematics scores are reported for grades three through ten and include results from the Norm Referenced Test (NRT) and Sunshine State Standards (SSS) portions of the FCAT. The new Science subtest is administered only to grades five, eight, and ten, and scores are reported as SSS scaled scores. It is important to understand that these results include all student curriculum groups and therefore are not used in the computation of school grades, as part of Florida's "A+ School Accountability Plan."

The 2003 results for Broward are encouraging and reflect the outstanding efforts put forth by the students, parents, teachers, and staff of the Broward County Public Schools. **Recognizing that the past few years have evidenced significant gains for Broward students, it is important to note that the 2003 gains are statistically strong.** For example, in relation to the number of students in each grade tested (approximately 20,000 per grade level), an increase of

approximately 2% would correspond to 400 students demonstrating academic growth at each grade level.

- *Grades 3 through 9 demonstrated increases in Reading achievement as measured by percentage of students scoring in Achievement Level 3 or above, from the previous school year. The largest increases occurred in Grade 8, where the percentage of students scoring in Achievement Level 3 or higher increased from 47% in 2002 to 51% in 2003. In Grade 10 scores were consistent with those of 2002.*
- *Increases in achievement on the Mathematics subtest occurred in Grades 4 (3% increase), and Grades 8 and 9, each with a 4% increase compared to the 2002 school year. Grades 3, 5, 6, and 7 remained consistent compared to the previous year, while Grade 10 slipped by 1%.*
- *Compared to the State, in Reading and Mathematics, performance, on the Norm-referenced Assessment, Broward's students outperformed the State at every grade level with the exception of Grade 9. At the ninth grade level, Broward students scored one percentage below the median State score and were in line with Mathematics at 66 percentile. Broward ninth graders scored well above the State average with 52% of Broward's students scoring at Achievement Level 3 or above as compared to 41% of the students State-wide.*
- *On the Mathematics subtest of the SSS, Broward students out-performed students across the State at all grade levels. On the Reading subtest, Broward students out-performed students across the State in grades 4, 6, 7, and 8, while scoring in line with State performance in Grades 3 and 9 and slightly below (-1%) in Grade 10.*
- *At the tenth grade level of the FCAT, 57% of students met the passing criteria in Reading (as compared to the State passing rate of 58%), while 74% Broward tenth graders met the passing criteria in Mathematic (as compared to 73% to the State).*
- *Broward students scored slightly below the State mean scale score in Grades 5, 8, and 10 in the new Science subtest.*

Types of Scores Reported

Several types of FCAT scores are now reported by the Florida Department of Education: NRT scores, SSS Achievement Levels, SSS Scale Scores, and Developmental Scale Scores (DSS).

The NRT portions of the FCAT allow for comparisons in Reading and Mathematics to a national norm group, where a percentile rank of 50 is average. The SSS portions of the FCAT describe overall achievement in Reading, Mathematics, and Science as set forth by Florida's Sunshine State Standards. Success in SSS Reading and SSS Mathematics is reported through Achievement Levels, which are scaled 1 through 5. Students scoring in Achievement Level 3 or higher are considered to be performing on or above grade level. Because this is the first year that Florida has integrated a Science component into the FCAT, Achievement Levels have not yet been determined and results are reported as scaled scores that range from 100 to 500. The

Developmental Scale Score (DSS) ranges from 86 to 3008 and may be used to monitor an individual student's annual progress. Attached is a summary of how DSS scores are related to SSS Achievement Levels.

Broward FCAT Results in Reading, Mathematics, and Science

Table 1 presents the results of Broward student performance on the Reading subtest of the FCAT from 2002 to 2003. It can be seen that 47% of eighth graders scored at Achievement Level 3 or above in 2002, while in 2003 this rate increased by 4% to 51%. In addition, the NRT scores indicate that Grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 are scoring well above the national average in Reading.

Table 1: Broward FCAT Reading Results for 2002 and 2003

Grade	Year	SSS							NRT
		Percent in Achievement Levels							Median Percentile
		1	2	3	4	5	2 or Higher	3 or Higher	
3	2002	23	14	34	23	5	76	62	59
	2003	23	14	34	24	5	77	63	62
4	2002	27	15	30	22	7	74	59	57
	2003	25	15	31	24	6	76	61	59
5	2002	27	19	31	19	4	73	54	54
	2003	25	19	33	20	3	75	56	56
6	2002	26	18	30	20	6	74	56	56
	2003	25	18	31	20	6	75	57	56
7	2002	27	21	30	17	5	73	52	59
	2003	24	21	30	19	6	76	55	61
8	2002	26	26	30	14	3	73	47	61
	2003	23	26	31	17	3	77	51	60
9	2002	44	27	17	8	4	56	29	42
	2003	42	27	18	8	5	58	31	43
10	2002	29	36	21	8	6	71	35	53
	2003	33	33	20	8	7	68	35	48

Table 2 presents the results of Broward student performance on the Mathematics subtest of the FCAT, from 2002 to 2003. In this area, it can be seen that the students in eighth and ninth grade scoring Achievement Level 3 or higher increased by four percentage points (Grade 8: 55% to 59%; Grade 9: 48% to 52%).

Table 2: Broward FCAT Mathematics Results for 2002 and 2003

Grade	Year	SSS							NRT
		Percent in Achievement Levels							Median Percentile
		1	2	3	4	5	2 or Higher	3 or Higher	
3	2002	17	18	33	24	9	84	66	67
	2003	17	17	33	24	9	83	66	69
4	2002	21	22	33	18	5	78	56	64
	2003	19	21	36	18	5	80	59	66
5	2002	21	24	23	22	10	79	55	66
	2003	21	24	23	23	9	79	55	66
6	2002	29	20	26	16	9	71	51	68
	2003	27	22	26	16	9	73	51	69
7	2002	27	20	27	16	10	73	53	70
	2003	27	20	27	17	9	73	53	71
8	2002	24	21	30	15	10	76	55	67
	2003	20	20	32	15	12	79	59	68
9	2002	28	25	26	15	7	73	48	64
	2003	22	26	28	17	7	78	52	66
10	2002	17	21	26	27	9	83	62	69
	2003	18	21	26	26	9	82	61	68

Table 3 summarizes the results of the new FCAT Science test. It can be seen that Broward's students generally performed in line with students across the State.

Table 3: Broward 2003 FCAT SSS Science Results

Grade Level	Mean Scale Score Broward	Mean Scale Score State
5	281	285
8	286	287
9	289	290

Graduation Requirements (Grade 10)

Table 4 summarizes the proportion of 10th grade students in Broward who scored at or above the passing score required by the State Board of Education for graduation from high school with a standard diploma.

Table 4: Broward 10th Grade FCAT Graduation Requirements

Year		Percent Passing Reading	Percent Passing Mathematics
2002	Broward	60	75
	State	58	72
2003	Broward	57	74
	State	58	73

Note that students who have yet to pass the 10th grade FCAT will have other opportunities to retake the examination.

Comparisons to State-wide Results

Table 5 summarizes the results for Broward presented in Tables 1, 2, and 3 and compares them alongside of results for students Statewide.

Table 5: Comparisons between Broward and State-wide Results on FCAT 2003

		Reading			Mathematics			Science
		Percent in Achievement Level 3 or Higher	Median NRT	Mean DSS	Percent in Achievement Level 3 or Higher	Median NRT	Mean DSS	Mean Scaled Score
Grade 3	Broward	63	62	1287	66	69	1362	
	State	63	61	1290	63	66	1335	
Grade 4	Broward	61	59	1502	59	66	1476	
	State	60	58	1497	54	64	1446	
Grade 5	Broward	56	56	1534	55	66	1634	281
	State	58	55	1540	52	63	1607	285
Grade 6	Broward	57	56	1651	51	69	1682	
	State	53	53	1619	47	64	1642	
Grade 7	Broward	55	61	1736	53	71	1780	
	State	52	57	1704	47	66	1747	
Grade 8	Broward	51	60	1864	59	68	1877	286
	State	49	58	1842	56	65	1856	287
Grade 9	Broward	31	43	1810	52	66	1899	
	State	31	44	1807	41	66	1892	
Grade 10	Broward	35	48	1948	61	68	1979	289
	State	36	46	1939	60	66	1970	290

Broward students are achieving at Reading levels higher than the State average in Grades 4, 6, 7, and 8. They are doing as well as students State-wide in Reading for Grades 3 and 9. Broward 10th graders are scoring slightly behind students State-wide on the SSS portion of the FCAT Reading, but are slightly ahead on the NRT Reading subtest. Similar performance is seen in the area of Mathematics.

School by school data may be found at Department of Education's website at www.firn.edu/doe/sas/fcat/fcpres.htm. Further analysis of the school by school data will be forthcoming. Individual Student Score Reports are expected to be delivered to the District on May 30, 2003. Distribution to students will occur during the week of June 9, 2003. **If you have any questions regarding this release, please contact me at (954) 760-7342, or Anne Dilgen, Director of Student Assessment, at (954) 940-7627.**

Attachment: FCAT Achievement Levels 2003

FT/KB/AD/SL:jp

cc: Senior Management
Area Directors
Principals
Diane Carr, Executive Director, Core Curriculum
Frank Vodolo, Executive Director, Educational Programs
PTA
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FCAT ACHIEVEMENT LEVELS 2003

Beginning with the 2003 Student Reports for the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test, individual student scores are being reported in terms of Developmental Scale Scores.

The transition from scale scores of 100-500 to developmental scores of 86 – 3008 has been implemented by the Florida Department of Education to help parents and others understand students' annual progress. As student achievement increases, students should receive higher scores as they move from grade to grade.

More information on developmental scale scores can be found on the Florida Department of Education website at http://www.firn.edu/doe/sas/fcat/fcat_score/score_report.htm

In the tables shown below, the scale scores as reported for the FCAT administration of 2002 and prior are listed in parentheses.

FCAT Achievement Levels and Developmental Scores					
Reading					
Grade	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
3	86-1045 (100-258)	1046-1197 (259-283)	1198-1488 (284-331)	1489-1865 (332-393)	1866-2514 (394-500)
4	295-1314 (100-274)	1315-1455 (275-298)	1456-1689 (299-338)	1690-1964 (339-385)	1965-2638 (386-500)
5	474-1341 (100-255)	1342-1509 (256-285)	1510-1761 (286-330)	1762-2058 (331-383)	2059-2713 (384-500)
6	539-1449 (100-264)	1450-1621 (265-295)	1622-1859 (296-338)	1860-2125 (339-386)	2126-2758 (387-500)
7	671-1541 (100-266)	1542-1714 (267-299)	1715-1944 (300-343)	1945-2180 (344-388)	2181-2767 (389-500)
8	886-1695 (100-270)	1696-1881 (271-309)	1882-2072 (310-349)	2073-2281 (350-393)	2282-2790 (394-500)
9	772-1771 (100-284)	1772-1971 (285-321)	1972-2145 (322-353)	2146-2297 (354-381)	2298-2943 (382-500)
10	844-1851 (100-286)	1852-2067 (287-326)	2068-2218 (327-354)	2219-2310 (355-371)	2311-3008 (372-500)

The passing score on the grade 10 Reading assessment for the 2003 graduating seniors is 1856 (287).

FCAT Achievement Levels and Developmental Scale Scores					
Mathematics					
Grade	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
3	375-1078 (100-252)	1079-1268 (253-293)	1269-1508 (294-345)	1509-1749 (346-397)	1750-2225 (398-500)
4	581-1276 (100-259)	1277-1443 (260-297)	1444-1657 (298-346)	1658-1862 (347-393)	1863-2330 (394-500)
5	569-1451 (100-287)	1452-1631 (288-325)	1632-1768 (326-354)	1769-1956 (355-394)	1957-2456 (395-500)
6	770-1553 (100-282)	1554-1691 (283-314)	1692-1859 (315-353)	1860-2018 (354-390)	2019-2492 (391-500)
7	958-1660 (100-274)	1661-1785 (75-305)	1786-1938 (306-343)	1939-2079 (344-378)	2080-2572 (379-500)
8	1025-1732 (100-279)	1733-1850 (280-309)	1851-1997 (310-346)	1998-2091 (347-370)	2092-2605 (371-500)
9	1238-1781 (100-260)	1782-1900 (261-295)	1901-2022 (296-331)	2023-2141 (332-366)	2142-2596 (367-500)
10	1068-1831 (100-286)	1832-1946 (287-314)	1947-2049 (315-339)	2050-2192 (340-374)	2193-2709 (375-500)

The Passing score on the grade 10 mathematics assessment for 2003 graduating seniors is 1868 (295).