

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

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TO: School Board Members

FROM: Katherine Blasik, Ph.D., Assistant Superintendent
Research, Evaluation, Assessment & Boundaries

VIA: Frank Till
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SUBJECT: **2004 RESULTS FOR THIRD GRADE AND RETAKES FOR THE
FLORIDA COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT TEST (FCAT)**

Today the Florida Department of Education released the scores for third grade students who participated in the 2004 Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) as well as for those students who participated in the March 2004 FCAT for the purposes of meeting high school graduation requirements. For the third grade, results are for both the Reading and Mathematics subtests, on the criterion-referenced portion of the FCAT (the Sunshine State Standards, or FCAT SSS) and the Norm-Referenced Test (FCAT NRT). These scores are viewed in terms of percent of students scoring in Achievement Levels 1-5 for the SSS portion and median national percentile ranks for the NRT component of the FCAT tests. The FCAT Retake scores are reported in terms of passing rates.

These results are from **all** students who took the FCAT and it is important to note that these results cannot be used to gauge school grades or annual yearly progress as part of the No Child Left Behind Act.

Third Grade Results

Overall the results released by the Florida Department of Education today reflect that Broward's third grade students achieved high levels of performance on the Reading and Mathematics subtests of the 2004 FCAT. Broward third graders generally out-performed their counterparts in other large districts throughout the State on the Reading and Mathematics subtests and did as well or better as students statewide. The results indicate that:

- **Performance over the past three years show that Broward's focus upon increasing student achievement has produced results. Third grade students in Broward continue to demonstrate increases in achievement as reflected by the fewer students scoring at Achievement Level 1 and, as expected more students are scoring at Achievement Levels 3, 4, and 5.**

- The percent of third grade students in Broward scoring at Achievement Level 3 or higher has increased by 2% over the most recent two years in both Reading (from 63% to 65%) and Mathematics (from 66% to 68%).
- More Broward third grade students scored at Achievement Level 3 or higher in Mathematics compared to students statewide. Furthermore, Broward’s third graders out-performed students in other large districts (Miami-Dade, Palm Beach, Hillsborough, and Orange) in Mathematics.
- In Reading, the percentage of Broward third graders scoring at Achievement Level 3 or higher was only 1% less than the statewide average. Broward’s third graders out-performed their counterparts in several other large districts (Miami-Dade, Palm Beach, and Orange).
- 78% (17,331 students) of Broward third graders scored in Achievement Level 2 or higher on the SSS Reading subtest. This represents a 1% increase compared to the previous two years. These students have successfully met the FCAT criteria for promotion into the fourth grade.
- 21% (4,666 students) of Broward third graders scored in Achievement Level 1 on the SSS Reading subtest, down from 23% in 2003 and 2002. This rate is less than the statewide rate and rates for other large urban districts. Determination about promotion for these students will be made from further analysis of alternate promotion methods.

Table 1 shows results on the FCAT Reading subtest for Broward’s third grade students over the past three years. Between 2002 and 2003, gains were seen in Reading performance as indicated by an increase of three percentile points on the NRT portion of the test and an increase in the student population with a one percent gain in the proportion of students scoring at Achievement Level 3 or above. In 2004 these gains have been increased further as shown by the **65%** of students who scored at Achievement Level 3 or higher. The third grade FCAT Reading SSS subtest is also used for promotion purposes to the fourth grade, as stipulated by Florida Statute 1008.25 (5) (b), with the rule that a third grade student must (a) score at Achievement Level 2 or higher; (b) earn a NPR at or above the 51st percentile; or (c) successfully demonstrate proficiency through alternative methods. Table 1 shows that **78%** of Broward third graders scored at Achievement Level 2 or above and this is an increase of 1% from both 2003 and 2002. The overall median NPR for Broward third grade students for 2004 was 62, which demonstrates that Broward third graders continue to perform at levels exceeding the nationwide average (by definition the nationwide average is reflected by an NPR of 50 points).

**Table 1:
Broward Third Grade Student Performance in Reading Subtest of
FCAT SSS and NRT**

| School Year | FCAT SSS | | | FCAT NRT |
|-------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| | % in Achievement Level 1 | % in Achievement Level 2 or Higher | % in Achievement Level 3 or Higher | Median National Percentile Rank |
| 2002 | 23% (4,686) | 77% (15,687) | 62% (12,631) | 59 |
| 2003 | 23% (4,739) | 77% (15,866) | 63% (12,981) | 62 |
| 2004 | 21% (4,666) | 78% (17,330) | 65% (14,442) | 62 |

Table 2 presents the results for third graders on the FCAT Mathematics subtest for 2002 through 2004. The Mathematics subtest is not used as part of the promotion criteria into the fourth grade. The results in Table 2 demonstrate a continued trend in increased participation while simultaneously maintaining

large proportions of students at or above proficiency in Mathematics: As the number of tested third grade students increases annually, the proportion of those achieving high standards remains the same. This is further demonstrated by the increase of two points in the district-wide median national percentile rank.

Table 2:
Broward Third Grade Student Performance in Mathematics Subtest of FCAT SSS and NRT

| School Year | FCAT SSS | | | FCAT NRT |
|-------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| | % in Achievement Level 1 | % in Achievement Level 2 or Higher | % in Achievement Level 3 or Higher | Median National Percentile Rank |
| 2002 | 17% (3,462) | 84% (17,107) | 66% (13,441) | 67 |
| 2003 | 17% (3,506) | 83% (17,115) | 66% (13,610) | 69 |
| 2004 | 15% (3,337) | 85% (18,910) | 68% (15,128) | 71 |

Table 3 shows the percentage of Broward third grade students scoring at each Achievement Level in Reading and Mathematics for the past three years. These results provide more specific information about student performance and achievement at the third grade level over the past three years.

Table 3:
Broward Third Grade Student Performance in Reading and Mathematics*

| | SSS Achievement Levels | | | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| FCAT SSS Reading | | | | | |
| 2002 (Total=20,373) | 23% (4,686) | 14% (2,852) | 34% (6,927) | 23% (4,686) | 5% (1,019) |
| 2003 (Total=20,605) | 23% (4,739) | 14% (2,885) | 34% (7,006) | 24% (4,945) | 5% (1,030) |
| 2004 (Total=22,219) | 21% (4,666) | 13% (2,888) | 33% (7,332) | 26% (5,777) | 6% (1,333) |
| FCAT SSS Mathematics | | | | | |
| 2002 (Total=20,365) | 17% (3,462) | 18% (3,666) | 33% (6,720) | 24% (4,888) | 9% (1,833) |
| 2003 (Total=20,621) | 17% (3,506) | 17% (3,506) | 33% (6,805) | 24% (4,949) | 9% (1,856) |
| 2004 (Total=22,247) | 15% (3,337) | 17% (3,782) | 34% (7,564) | 25% (5,562) | 9% (2,002) |

*Due to rounding procedures and scoring issues, sums of percentages may not equal 100% and sums of number of students may not equal total number of students.

Comparison to Statewide Results and Other Large Districts in Florida

Table 4 presents the proportions of third grade students in each Achievement Level in Reading for Broward, Florida as a whole, and four of the largest school districts in the State. Reading performance among third grade students in Broward was only one percentage point less than the statewide average, and Broward students earned higher scores than students from Miami-Dade, Orange, and Palm Beach counties. Note that the proportion of third grade students in Broward who are scoring at Achievement

Level 3 and above in Reading is not the same as the statewide rate; however, the proportions of students scoring at Levels 3, 4, and 5 are the same for both Broward and the State. This is due to rounding procedures employed by the Florida Department of Education and reflects that Broward's students performed very similarly to those statewide. Table 4 also shows that fewer third grade students in Broward are scoring at Achievement Level 1 than the State as a whole, Miami-Dade, Palm Beach, and Orange counties. Broward and Hillsborough are in line with one another, with each district having only 21% of their third grade students at Achievement Level 1 in Reading.

**Table 4: FCAT SSS Reading Results
By Achievement Level 2004***

| District/State | Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 | Level 4 | Level 5 | % Scoring Level 3 or Above |
|----------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|----------------------------|
| Broward | 21% | 13% | 33% | 26% | 6% | 65% |
| State | 22% | 13% | 33% | 26% | 6% | 66% |
| Miami-Dade | 29% | 14% | 32% | 21% | 4% | 57% |
| Orange | 24% | 13% | 34% | 23% | 5% | 62% |
| Palm Beach | 24% | 12% | 32% | 26% | 7% | 64% |
| Hillsborough | 21% | 12% | 32% | 28% | 7% | 67% |

*Due to rounding procedures and scoring issues, sums of percentages may not equal 100% and sums of number of students may not equal total number of students.

Table 5 presents the proportions of students in each Achievement Level in Mathematics for Broward, Florida, and four of the largest school districts. It can be seen from Table 5 that Broward's third graders outperformed students from across the state as a whole as well as their counterparts in the largest counties in Florida on the Mathematics subtest.

**Table 5: FCAT SSS Mathematics Results
By Achievement Level 2004***

| District/State | Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 | Level 4 | Level 5 | % Scoring Level 3 or Above |
|----------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|----------------------------|
| Broward | 15% | 17% | 34% | 25% | 9% | 68% |
| State | 17% | 19% | 34% | 23% | 7% | 64% |
| Miami-Dade | 24% | 20% | 33% | 18% | 5% | 56% |
| Orange | 21% | 20% | 34% | 20% | 6% | 59% |
| Palm Beach | 17% | 20% | 35% | 22% | 7% | 64% |
| Hillsborough | 16% | 19% | 33% | 23% | 8% | 65% |

*Due to rounding procedures and scoring issues, sums of percentages may not equal 100% and sums of number of students may not equal total number of students.

School Accountability and Performance Issues

The FCAT results released by the Florida Department of Education today are not the same data that are used to determine school performance under the Florida A+ Plan or the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act. Instead these results are for all third grade students who participated in the March 2004

administration of the FCAT. Only scores from specific eligible students under each accountability rule are used to calculate school letter grades for the Florida A+ Plan and Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) as part of NCLB. For example, students included in today's release may have only been enrolled at a school for a short period of time, while students must be enrolled for a full academic year to be included in the data calculation for School Grades and AYP as part of NCLB.

Next Steps

Third grade students who have not yet met the FCAT criteria for promotion into the fourth grade will have additional opportunities to demonstrate readiness prior to the next school year. Retention of third grade students is based in part upon the requirements of Florida Statute 1008.25 (5) (b) that requires third grade students to be retained if they have not met Achievement Level 2 on the FCAT SSS Reading assessment. The criteria for promotion from the third to the fourth grade requires that students either (a) score in Achievement Level 2 or higher in the area of Reading on the Sunshine State Standards (SSS) portion of the FCAT, or (b) demonstrate an exemption from this criteria through good cause. Among the available exemption methods for demonstrating readiness for promotion into the fourth grade are:

- Scoring at or above the 51st percentile on the Reading subtest on the Norm Referenced portion of the FCAT.
- Scoring at or above the 51st percentile on the Reading subtest of an alternative assessment, the Stanford Achievement Test (SAT-9). This test will be administered on May 18, 2004, at the child's home school.
- For those third grade students who still do not demonstrate readiness for promotion with the SAT-9, an initial Portfolio reading assessment will be conducted beginning June 2004, followed by a Reading Camp from July 7 to July 28. Another Portfolio assessment will be administered at the conclusion of the Reading Camp.

The FCAT Reading promotion criteria was first implemented last year. In 2003 approximately 20% (4,020 students) of Broward third graders did not meet the promotion requirement through either the SSS or NRT portion of the FCAT Reading subtest. However, of those students, approximately 11% (442 students) were able to demonstrate readiness for fourth grade promotion via the SAT-9. Following last year's Reading Camp and Portfolio assessments, another 138 students were able to demonstrate readiness for promotion into the fourth grade. In other words, approximately 83% of third grade students in 2002-2003 were able to be promoted into the fourth grade in time for the 2003-2004 school year.

This year there are about 3,783 (about 17%) Broward third graders who have not yet demonstrated readiness for fourth grade promotion and it is important to note that based upon the previous year's performance and curriculum interventions, many of these students will still be adequately prepared for promotion into the fourth grade for the 2004-2005 school year.

Overall the results released by the Florida Department of Education today reflect that Broward's third grade students achieved high levels of performance on the Reading and Mathematics subtests of the 2004 FCAT. Broward third graders generally out-performed their counterparts in other large districts throughout the state on these subtests and did as well or better as students statewide.

FCAT Retake Results---Graduation Requirement

These results include those students who had taken the 10th-grade level FCAT previously, but did not pass the Sunshine State Standards (SSS) portion in Reading and/or Mathematics, and those grade 11 or 12 students who may be newly enrolled in the Florida public schools. Research has demonstrated that there is an increased need to focus upon reading proficiency at the high school level. The results released today indicate that Broward is showing significant progress in this area. Specifically the results indicate that:

- At the tenth, eleventh and twelfth grade levels, a **greater percentage of Broward students passed** both the SSS Reading and Mathematics subtests than the statewide rate.
- Of the 2,451 12th graders in Broward who took the Reading SSS subtest, 882 (36%) met or exceeded the passing criteria. This represents a **thirteen point increase** in the passing rate from the previous year in Reading. Of the 1,430 12th graders who took the Mathematics SSS subtest, 386 (27%) met or exceeded the passing criteria; this is a 12% decrease in the passing rate from the previous year.
- At the eleventh grade, 5,051 Broward students took the Reading SSS subtest and 1,717 (34%) passed; 3,472 students took the Mathematics SSS subtest and 1,042 (30%) passed.
- At the tenth grade, 176 Broward students took the Reading SSS subtest and 44 (25%) passed; 131 students took the Mathematics SSS subtest and 38 (29%) passed.

Disaggregated Results for Broward

The results released by the Florida Department of Education today report the passing rates for students in grades 10, 11, and 12 as well as those who are participating in adult education. The passing rates for those groups of students are presented in Table 6. In 2003, the pass rate for twelfth grade students in Broward retaking the FCAT was 23% in Reading and 39% in Mathematics. In 2004 the pass rate for Broward twelfth graders retaking the FCAT was 36% in Reading and 27% in Mathematics; this reflects increases in passing rates from the previous year of 13% in Reading. Passing rates in Mathematics decreased by 12%, however.

**Table 6: FCAT Retakes Reading and Mathematics
Passing Rates, 2004**

| Grade/ Level | SSS READING | | | SSS MATHEMATICS | | |
|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| | Number Tested | Percent Passed | Number Passed | Number Tested | Percent Passed | Number Passed |
| 10 | 176 | 25% | 44 | 131 | 29% | 38 |
| 11 | 5,051 | 34% | 1,717 | 3,472 | 30% | 1,042 |
| 12 | 2,451 | 36% | 882 | 1,430 | 27% | 386 |
| Adult | 141 | 19% | 27 | 101 | 10% | 10 |

For the 5,149 students who did not meet the passing criteria in Reading and for the 3,658 who did not meet the passing criteria in Mathematics, there will be another opportunity to take the FCAT in late June, 2004.

These results should not be interpreted as high school graduation rates. There are additional requirements for earning a high school diploma beyond passing the FCAT and there are cases where students may be exempted from the FCAT passing criteria. At this time the Department of Student Assessment is beginning analysis of the impact of FCAT passing rates upon graduation status. The results of this analysis will be forthcoming in a separate report.

Comparison to Statewide Rates and Other Large Districts in Florida

Table 7 summarizes the FCAT Retake results for twelfth grade students in Broward, the state as a whole, and four of the largest districts. In general twelfth grade students have had multiple opportunities (six attempts) to pass the Grade 10 FCAT.

Readings scores for Broward reflect a 36% passing rate at the twelfth grade level, which is above the passing rates statewide (34%) and in Miami-Dade (30%), Palm Beach (33%), and Orange (34%) counties. In Mathematics, Broward twelfth graders passed at a greater rate (27%) than the statewide rate (26%) as well as compared to students from Orange (26%) and Miami-Dade (25%).

Table 7: FCAT 12th Grade Reading and Mathematics Passing Rates 2004

| District/State | SSS READING | | | SSS MATHEMATICS | | |
|----------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|
| | Number Tested | Percent Passed | Number Passed | Number Tested | Percent Passed | Number Passed |
| Broward | 2,451 | 36% | 882 | 1,430 | 27% | 386 |
| State | 20,762 | 34% | 7,059 | 12,204 | 26% | 3,173 |
| Miami-Dade | 4,469 | 30% | 1,341 | 2,612 | 25% | 653 |
| Orange | 1,558 | 34% | 530 | 958 | 26% | 249 |
| Palm Beach | 1,527 | 33% | 504 | 721 | 31% | 224 |
| Hillsborough | 1,148 | 39% | 448 | 556 | 28% | 156 |

Table 8 presents the retake results for 11th graders. In general 11th grade students have also had multiple opportunities (three attempts) to pass the Grade 10 FCAT. Broward eleventh graders had higher passing rates compared to their counterparts statewide, by 1% in both Reading and Mathematics. These students also passed at a higher rate in Reading when compared to students from Miami-Dade, Orange, and Palm Beach counties, and higher as well in Mathematics compared to students from Miami-Dade and Orange counties.

Table 8: FCAT 11th Grade Reading and Mathematics Passing Rates 2004

| District/State | SSS READING | | | SSS MATHEMATICS | | |
|----------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|
| | Number Tested | Percent Passed | Number Passed | Number Tested | Percent Passed | Number Passed |
| Broward | 5,051 | 34% | 1,717 | 3,472 | 30% | 1,042 |
| State | 41,801 | 33% | 13,794 | 27,156 | 29% | 7,875 |
| Miami-Dade | 7,629 | 28% | 2,136 | 4,885 | 24% | 1,172 |
| Orange | 2,667 | 30% | 800 | 1,838 | 27% | 496 |
| Palm Beach | 3,628 | 30% | 1,088 | 2,324 | 34% | 790 |
| Hillsborough | 2,562 | 38% | 974 | 1,397 | 33% | 461 |

Table 9 presents the Retake results for students in grade 10. In general these would be students who have attempted the Grade 10 FCAT at least once before. It is important to note that the results in Table 4 do not reflect the performance of tenth grade students who attempted the FCAT for the first time in March, 2004. The results show that in Reading, these Broward tenth graders passed at a 3% higher rate than their counterparts statewide, and these students had the highest passing rates among Miami-Dade, Orange, Palm Beach, and Hillsborough counties. In Mathematics tenth grade retake students in Broward scored at a rate that was 7% higher than the statewide average, and they passed at a higher rate when compared to students from Miami-Dade and Orange counties.

Table 9: FCAT 10th Grade Reading and Mathematics Passing Rates 2004

| District/State | SSS READING | | | SSS MATHEMATICS | | |
|----------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|
| | Number Tested | Percent Passed | Number Passed | Number Tested | Percent Passed | Number Passed |
| Broward | 176 | 25% | 44 | 131 | 29% | 38 |
| State | 4,596 | 22% | 1,011 | 3,600 | 22% | 792 |
| Miami-Dade | 1,584 | 18% | 285 | 1,247 | 16% | 200 |
| Orange | 230 | 22% | 51 | 170 | 19% | 32 |
| Palm Beach | 553 | 24% | 133 | 481 | 31% | 149 |
| Hillsborough | 263 | 21% | 55 | 193 | 30% | 58 |

Individual student results will be in Broward high schools during the week of April 26. School-by-school results and District Reports may be found on the Department of Education website at <http://fcats.fldoe.org/>.

If you have any questions regarding this release, **please contact me at (754) 321-2470 or Dr. Sean Leonard, Research Specialist, Student Assessment, at (754) 321-4250.**

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