

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

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May 10, 2004

TO: School Board Members

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

VIA: Frank Till
Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: **FLORIDA COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT TEST (FCAT) SUNSHINE
STATE STANDARDS (SSS) RESULTS FOR 2004, GRADES 4-10**

In late April, the Florida Department of Education released the 2004 FCAT Writing results for grades 4, 8, and 10 as well as the results for Grade 3 and high school Retakes for the Reading and Mathematics FCAT subtests, and the results from the norm-referenced (NRT) portion of the FCAT for grades 3 through 10. You will recall that Broward students performed well when compared to their counterparts throughout the state. Reading and Mathematics scores for Grade 3 students demonstrated improvement over the past three years, showing that Broward's focus upon increasing student achievement has produced significant results. Broward students who were retaking the FCAT as part of the requirement for high school graduation had passing rates that exceeded the statewide average in both Reading and Mathematics. The results from the FCAT NRT indicate that Broward students are performing above average in Mathematics at all grade levels, and in grades 3 through 8 are performing above average in Reading as well.

Today, the Florida Department of Education released statewide and individual district results for 2004 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 Sunshine State Standards (SSS) portions of the FCAT. The Science subtest is administered only to grades five, eight, and ten, and scores are reported as SSS scaled scores. It is important to recall 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 results do not include students who participated in alternative assessments to the FCAT, such that these results cannot be used to infer Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) as part of the "No Child Left Behind" (NCLB) Act.

The 2004 FCAT results further reflect that Broward's commitment to enhancing and improving student performance has produced observable results. As a large, urban school district Broward provides educational experiences to a culturally and economically diverse population of students that yield measurable gains on the FCAT.

In the following report you will find that:

- Gains were made in Mathematics across **all** grade levels compared to the previous year. The percentage of students scoring at Achievement Level 3 or Above on the Mathematics subtest increased most significantly at Grade 4 (59% in 2003 to 68% in 2004) and Grade 10 (61% in 2003 to 65% in 2004).
- Increases in achievement on the Reading subtest occurred in Grade 3 (2% increase), Grade 4 (9% increase), Grade 5 (4% increase), and Grade 7 (1% increase) compared to the 2003 school year. There were small (only 1%) decreases at Grades 6, 9, and 10 and a 4% decrease in Grade 8.
- Significant gains in both Reading and Mathematics occurred in Grade 4, with a 9% increase in fourth graders scoring at Achievement Level 3 or Above in **both** Reading and Mathematics.
- In Science, Broward students in Grade 5 made significant gains compared to last year and outperformed their counterparts throughout the state. Students at Grade 8 maintained their Science scores and performed in line with the statewide average, while Students at Grade 10 produced lower scores this year and scored slightly below the statewide average.
- Tenth-grade students from Broward had higher passing rates than the statewide average in both Reading and Mathematics. In Reading the passing rates both for Broward and the State evidenced a decrease from the previous year. It is important to note that while the State passing rate decreased by 4% from the previous year, Broward's passing rate decreased by only 2%.
- Overall, we see a shift in elementary grade students moving out of Achievement Level 1 to Level 2 or higher. There is some indication when viewing the three-year trend in middle school that this shift is occurring at those grade levels as well. However, not unexpectedly and consistent with previous reports, Broward's high schools continue to require focus in Reading in order to move students to a proficient level.

Types of Scores Reported

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

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. For the Science subtest of 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. Attachment I contains 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 2004. It can be seen that the largest gains in Reading occurred at Grade 4, with 9% more students scoring at Achievement Level 3 or Above from 2003 to 2004. Gains in Reading were also found at Grades 3, 5, and 7. Remaining grade levels (6, 8, 9, and 10) showed decreases in Reading scores from the previous year.

Table 1: Broward FCAT Reading Results, 2002 to 2004

Grade	Year	SSS						
		Percent in Achievement Levels						
		1	2	3	4	5	2 or Higher	3 or Higher
3	2002	23	14	34	23	5	76	62
	2003	23	14	34	24	5	77	63
	2004	21	13	33	26	6	78	65
4	2002	27	15	30	22	7	74	59
	2003	25	15	31	24	6	76	61
	2004	15	15	36	27	7	85	70
5	2002	27	19	31	19	4	73	54
	2003	25	19	33	20	3	75	56
	2004	22	18	32	22	6	78	60
6	2002	26	18	30	20	6	74	56
	2003	25	18	31	20	6	75	57
	2004	24	20	32	18	6	76	56
7	2002	27	21	30	17	5	73	52
	2003	24	21	30	19	6	76	55
	2004	24	21	31	18	6	77	56
8	2002	26	26	30	14	3	73	47
	2003	23	26	31	17	3	77	51
	2004	26	26	28	15	4	73	47
9	2002	44	27	17	8	4	56	29
	2003	42	27	18	8	5	58	31
	2004	40	30	18	8	5	60	30
10	2002	29	36	21	8	6	71	35
	2003	33	33	20	8	7	68	35
	2004	35	30	18	7	10	64	34
*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 2 presents the results of Broward student performance on the Mathematics subtest of the FCAT, from 2002 to 2004. It can be seen that gains were achieved at all grade levels, compared

to the previous year. The largest gains were observed at the fourth grade level, with an increase of 9% in the proportion of students scoring at Achievement Level 3 or Above.

Table 2: Broward FCAT Mathematics Results, 2002 to 2004

Grade	Year	SSS						
		Percent in Achievement Levels						
		1	2	3	4	5	2 or Higher	3 or Higher
3	2002	17	18	33	24	9	84	66
	2003	17	17	33	24	9	83	66
	2004	15	17	34	25	9	85	68
4	2002	21	22	33	18	5	78	56
	2003	19	21	36	18	5	80	59
	2004	13	19	36	24	8	87	68
5	2002	21	24	23	22	10	79	55
	2003	21	24	23	23	9	79	55
	2004	17	24	24	24	10	82	58
6	2002	29	20	26	16	9	71	51
	2003	27	22	26	16	9	73	51
	2004	28	19	26	18	9	72	53
7	2002	27	20	27	16	10	73	53
	2003	27	20	27	17	9	73	53
	2004	25	19	26	18	11	75	56
8	2002	24	21	30	15	10	76	55
	2003	20	20	32	15	12	79	59
	2004	21	20	29	16	15	80	60
9	2002	28	25	26	15	7	73	48
	2003	22	26	28	17	7	78	52
	2004	22	23	28	18	9	78	55
10	2002	17	21	26	27	9	83	62
	2003	18	21	26	26	9	82	61
	2004	15	21	26	28	10	86	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.

Table 3 summarizes the results of the new FCAT Science test. Note that this is only the second year of administration for the Science subtest. Science scores from the fifth grade show a 7 point improvement compared to last year and are also higher than the statewide average. Eighth grade students maintained the Science scores from the previous year and performed as well as students throughout the state. At Grade 10, Science scores dropped slightly from the previous year and with students scoring 1 point less than the statewide average.

Table 3: Broward FCAT SSS Science Results, 2003-2004

Grade Level	Year	Mean Scale Score Broward	Mean Scale Score State
5	2003	281	285
	2004	288	286
8	2003	286	287
	2004	286	286
10	2003	289	290
	2004	286	287

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. The results show that Broward 10th graders had higher passing rates in both Reading and Mathematics than the statewide average.

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
2004	Broward	55	78
	State	54	76

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

Comparisons to Statewide 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 Statewide Results on FCAT 2004

		Reading		Mathematics		Science
		Percent in Achievement Level 3 or Higher	Mean DSS	Percent in Achievement Level 3 or Higher	Mean DSS	Mean Scaled Score
Grade 3	Broward	65	1318	68	1382	
	State	66	1315	64	1346	
Grade 4	Broward	70	1573	68	1546	
	State	70	1571	64	1508	
Grade 5	Broward	60	1573	58	1658	288
	State	59	1562	52	1616	286
Grade 6	Broward	56	1646	53	1682	
	State	54	1634	46	1637	
Grade 7	Broward	56	1736	56	1806	
	State	53	1710	50	1760	
Grade 8	Broward	47	1842	60	1882	286
	State	45	1815	56	1858	286
Grade 9	Broward	30	1829	55	1908	
	State	32	1830	55	1903	
Grade 10	Broward	34	1942	65	1992	286
	State	34	1927	63	1982	287

Broward students are achieving at Reading levels higher than the state average in Grades 5, 6, 7, and 8. Broward students are doing as well as students statewide in Reading for Grades 4 and 10. Broward 3rd and 9th graders are scoring slightly behind students statewide on the SSS portion of the FCAT Reading. In Mathematics, Broward students generally performed significantly better than students statewide. At Grades 3, 4, and 8 it can be seen that 4% more Broward students scored at Achievement Level 3 or Above in Mathematics than the statewide rate. At Grades 5 and 7, there were 6% more students in Broward scoring at Achievement Level 3 or Above than the statewide rate. The largest difference was at Grade 6, with 7% more Broward students scoring at Achievement Level 3 or Above than the statewide rate. Grade 10 students in Broward also scored higher than the statewide rate while Grade 9 students matched the statewide rate.

FCAT SSS Results, 2004

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School by school data may be found at Department of Education's website, at <http://fcat.fldoe.org/>. Further analysis of these school by school data will be forthcoming. Individual Student Score Reports are expected to be delivered to the District on May 19, 2004. Distribution to schools will occur during the week of May 24, 2004. **If you have any questions regarding this release, please contact me at (754) 321-2470, or Anne Dilgen, Director of Student Assessment, at (754) 321-4250.**

FT/KB/AD/SL:jp

Attachment: FCAT Achievement Levels 2004

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

FCAT ACHIEVEMENT LEVELS 2004

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 2004 graduating seniors is 1926 (300).

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 (275-305)	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 2004 graduating seniors is 1889 (300).