

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

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Approved memorandum with signatures is on file.

May 19, 2005

TO: School Board Members

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

VIA: Frank Till
Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: **RELEASE OF 2005 FLORIDA COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT TEST
(FCAT) RESULTS FOR GRADES 4-10**

Earlier this month, the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) released results of the 2005 FCAT Reading and Mathematics assessments for students in Grade 3, as well as those high school students who participated in the 2005 FCAT Retake administration. These results reflected that Broward's third grade students performed well when compared to students in other large districts throughout the state. Performance of Grade 3 students on the Reading and Mathematics Sunshine State Standards (SSS) portion of the test has increased steadily over the past four years, reflecting that Broward's focus on increasing student achievement has produced consistent results at the third grade. Today, the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) released statewide, district, and school-by-school results of the 2005 FCAT Reading and Mathematics Assessments for Grades 4 through 10. Reading and Mathematics scores are reported for Grades 3 through 10 and include results from both the Sunshine State Standards (SSS) and Norm-Referenced Test (NRT) portions of the FCAT.

It is also important to note that the results released today include all students who participated in the 2005 FCAT administration and therefore do not represent the data that will be used to determine school grades under Florida's A+ Plan or Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) under the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act. Only those scores from eligible students will be included in school accountability calculations. For instance, while students who were enrolled at a school for only a short time were included in the data released today, only those students who were enrolled at a school for the full academic year will be included in school accountability calculations. Finally, today's results do not include students who participated in alternate assessments in place of the FCAT. Please know that the results from students who participated in the alternate assessments will be included in AYP calculations.

The results of the FCAT are reported via several types of scores. The SSS portions of the FCAT describe overall achievement in Reading and Mathematics as set forth by Florida's Sunshine State Standards. On the Reading and Mathematics SSS portions of the test, results are presented in terms of mean SSS Scale Scores (ranging from 100 to 500 at each grade level), mean

Developmental Scale Scores (DSS; ranging from 86 to 3008 across all grade levels), and the proportion of students scoring at each of the SSS Achievement Levels, 1 through 5. Students scoring in Achievement Level 3 or higher are considered to be performing on or above grade level. On the Norm-Referenced Test (NRT) portion of the FCAT, results are reported in terms of median National Percentile Rank (NPR) scores. The NRT portions of the FCAT allow for comparisons between students in Broward County and students throughout the nation. NPR scores range from 1 to 99, where a score at the 50th percentile is average. Please note that in 2005, the FDOE adopted a new version of the FCAT NRT, based on the tenth edition of the Stanford Achievement Test (SAT-10). Previously, the FCAT NRT was based on the ninth edition of the Stanford (SAT-9). Consequently, results of the 2005 FCAT NRT should not be directly compared to previous years, as students taking the FCAT NRT in 2005 participated in a new version of this assessment with updated normative data used for scoring.

In the following report you will find that:

- In Mathematics, Broward students performed as well or better than students across the state at **all grade levels**. Increases in the percent of students scoring at Achievement Level 3 or higher on the SSS test were observed in Grades 3 (5 percentage point increase), 4 (1 point), 5 (3 points), 6 (1 point), 7 (2 points), 8 (3 points) and 9 (7 points). On the NRT Mathematics subtest, Broward County's median national percentile rank exceeded the national average in all grade levels, 3 through 10.
- Increases in the percent of students scoring at Achievement Level 3 or higher on the SSS Reading subtest occurred in Grade 3 (2 percentage point increase), Grade 5 (5 points), Grade 6 (1 point), and Grade 9 (7 points) compared to the 2004 school year. On the NRT Reading subtest, Broward County's median national percentile rank exceeded the national average in Grades 4 through 10.
- Significant gains in both Reading and Mathematics occurred in Grade 9, with a 7 percentage point increase noted in the proportion of ninth grade students scoring at Achievement Level 3 or higher in **both** Reading and Mathematics. Increases were also noted in the proportion of Grade 5 students scoring at or above Achievement Level 3 in both Reading and Mathematics (5 and 3 percentage points respectively).
- At Grade 10, passing rates among Broward students decreased from the previous year in both Reading (from 55% to 49%) and Mathematics (from 78% to 76%).

Broward FCAT Results in Reading and Mathematics

Table 1 presents the results of Broward student performance on the Reading subtest of the FCAT, from 2002 to 2005. Although Grade 3 results were previously released, the data have been included in the tables below for comparative purposes. It can be seen that the largest gains on the Reading portion of the FCAT SSS occurred at Grade 9, with an increase of 7 percentage points noted in the proportion of students scoring at Achievement Level 3 or higher from 2004 to 2005. Gains in Reading were also demonstrated at Grades 3, 5, and 6. Performance in Reading at Grades 7 and 8 was maintained from the previous year, while the remaining grade levels (4 and 10) showed decreases in Reading scores as compared to 2004. When the FCAT SSS Reading results are compared over the four-year period shown in Table 1, increases in student achievement were noted at Grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 9. Performance in Grade 8 has remained level, and a decrease in performance was noted at Grade 10.

On the NRT Reading portion of the 2005 FCAT, Broward's median national percentile rank exceeded the national average (50th percentile) at all grade levels with the exception of Grade 3, where scores earned by Broward third grade students resulted in a median score that was one percentile point below the national average. Although the median percentile rank scores earned by students in Broward County from 2002 to 2004 are reported, because the 2005 FCAT NRT assessment is a new version of the test (SAT-10), direct comparisons with previous year data are not appropriate.

Table 1: Broward FCAT Reading Results, 2002 to 2005

Grade	Year	SSS						NRT**	
		Mean Scale Score	Percent of Students in Each Achievement Level						Median NPR
			1	2	3	4	5	3 or Higher	
3	2002	297	23	14	34	23	5	62	59
	2003	298	23	14	34	24	5	63	62
	2004	303	21	13	33	26	6	65	62
	2005	306	20	13	32	28	7	67	49**
4	2002	304	27	15	30	22	7	59	57
	2003	306	25	15	31	24	6	61	59
	2004	318	15	15	36	27	7	70	63
	2005	316	17	14	35	27	7	69	54**
5	2002	287	27	19	31	19	4	54	54
	2003	289	25	19	33	20	3	56	56
	2004	296	22	18	32	22	6	60	57
	2005	302	19	17	34	24	7	65	60**
6	2002	298	26	18	30	20	6	56	56
	2003	300	25	18	31	20	6	57	56
	2004	300	24	20	32	18	6	56	56
	2005	302	23	20	32	19	6	57	57**
7	2002	298	27	21	30	17	5	52	59
	2003	303	24	21	30	19	6	55	61
	2004	303	24	21	31	18	6	56	61
	2005	304	24	21	31	19	6	56	58**
8	2002	300	26	26	30	14	3	47	61
	2003	305	23	26	31	17	3	51	60
	2004	301	26	26	28	15	4	47	62
	2005	301	24	29	31	13	3	47	71**
9	2002	289	44	27	17	8	4	29	42
	2003	291	42	27	18	8	5	31	43
	2004	295	40	30	18	8	5	30	43
	2005	302	34	29	21	10	6	37	65**
10	2002	307	29	36	21	8	6	35	53
	2003	304	33	33	20	8	7	35	48
	2004	303	35	30	18	7	10	34	46
	2005	294	41	30	16	6	7	29	62**

*Due to rounding procedures, percent totals may sum to slightly more or less than 100%.

**2005 data are based on the new FCAT NRT (SAT-10) and should not be directly compared to prior year data (SAT-9).

Table 2 presents the results of Broward student performance on the Mathematics subtest of the FCAT, from 2002 to 2005.

Table 2: Broward FCAT Mathematics Results, 2002 to 2005

Grade	Year	SSS							NRT**
		Mean Scale Score	Percent of Students in Each Achievement Level						Median NPR
			1	2	3	4	5	3 or Higher	
3	2002	314	17	18	33	24	9	66	67
	2003	313	17	17	33	24	9	66	69
	2004	318	15	17	34	25	9	68	71
	2005	328	13	14	33	28	13	73	64**
4	2002	303	21	22	33	18	5	56	64
	2003	305	19	21	36	18	5	59	66
	2004	321	13	19	36	24	8	68	71
	2005	320	13	19	37	23	8	69	64**
5	2002	327	21	24	23	22	10	55	66
	2003	326	21	24	23	23	9	55	66
	2004	331	17	24	24	24	10	58	68
	2005	335	14	25	26	28	8	61	69**
6	2002	310	29	20	26	16	9	51	68
	2003	312	27	22	26	16	9	51	69
	2004	312	28	19	26	18	9	53	70
	2005	316	26	20	27	18	9	54	65**
7	2002	302	27	20	27	16	10	53	70
	2003	304	27	20	27	17	9	53	71
	2004	310	25	19	26	18	11	56	72
	2005	313	21	21	28	19	11	58	69**
8	2002	310	24	21	30	15	10	55	67
	2003	316	20	20	32	15	12	59	68
	2004	317	21	20	29	16	15	60	69
	2005	320	19	18	30	17	15	63	71**
9	2002	288	28	25	26	15	7	48	64
	2003	295	22	26	28	17	7	52	66
	2004	297	22	23	28	18	9	55	68
	2005	305	18	21	30	21	11	62	73**
10	2002	323	17	21	26	27	9	62	69
	2003	322	18	21	26	26	9	61	68
	2004	325	15	21	26	28	10	65	69
	2005	321	15	22	28	27	8	63	59**

*Due to rounding procedures, percent totals may sum to slightly more or less than 100%.
 **2005 data are based on the new FCAT NRT (SAT-10) and should not be directly compared to prior year data (SAT-9).

As seen in Table 2, the largest gains in SSS Mathematics were observed at Grade 9, where, as noted in Reading, there was a 7 percentage point increase in the proportion of students scoring at Achievement Level 3 or higher compared to 2004. Grade 3 also showed significant gains, with an increase of 5 percentage points in the proportion of students scoring at Achievement Level 3 or higher compared to last year. Gains from the previous year were also observed in Grades 4

(1 percentage point), 5 (3 percentage points), 6 (1 percentage point), 7 (2 percentage points), and 8 (3 percentage points), while slightly fewer Grade 10 students (2 percentage points) scored at Achievement Level 3 or higher as compared to the previous year. When the FCAT SSS Mathematics results were compared over the four-year period as shown in the above table, increases in student achievement were noted at all grade levels in the period from 2002 to 2005.

On the NRT Mathematics portion of the FCAT this year, Broward's median national percentile rank exceeded the national average (50th percentile) at all grade levels, 3 through 10. Again, although the median percentile rank scores earned by students in Broward County from 2002 to 2004 are reported, because the 2005 FCAT NRT assessment is a new version of the test (SAT-10), direct comparisons with the data provided for prior years should not be made.

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, 2002-2005

Subject Area	School Year	Percent Passing	
		Broward	State
Reading	2002	60	58
	2003	57	58
	2004	55	54
	2005	49	52
Mathematics	2002	75	72
	2003	74	73
	2004	78	76
	2005	76	77

The percent of Grade 10 students in Broward passing the Reading portion of the FCAT decreased from 55% to 49% in the past year. Note that the statewide passing rate in Reading also decreased from 54% to 52%. The Grade 10 passing rate among Broward students for Mathematics decreased from 78% to 76% in the past year, while the statewide passing rate increased from 76% to 77%. Students who have not yet earned passing scores on the 10th grade FCAT will have additional opportunities to retake the examination prior to graduation.

Comparisons to Statewide Results and Other Large Districts in Florida

The results released today reflect that students in Broward County continue to demonstrate achievement comparable to statewide averages and at or above the performance of students in other large districts throughout the state. Table 5 presents comparative data for Broward County, Florida as a whole, and four of the other largest school districts in the state (Miami-Dade, Hillsborough, Orange, and Palm Beach). The table includes the percentages of students scoring at Achievement Level 3 or higher on the Reading and Mathematics portions of the SSS, the Mean Developmental Scale Score (DSS) earned on the SSS portions of the FCAT, and the Median National Percentile Rank on the Reading and Mathematics NRT portions of the FCAT.

Table 5: FCAT SSS and NRT Results on the 2005 FCAT

Grade	District/State	FCAT SSS				FCAT NRT Median National Percentile Rank	
		Reading		Mathematics		Reading	Mathematics
		% Scoring Level 3 or Above	Mean DSS	% Scoring Level 3 or Above	Mean DSS		
3	State	67	1333	68	1380	50	62
	Broward	67	1334	73	1427	49	64
	Miami-Dade	61	1262	63	1345	43	54
	Hillsborough	66	1330	64	1362	49	63
	Orange	65	1304	66	1360	48	59
	Palm Beach	67	1325	69	1386	50	62
4	State	71	1575	64	1509	55	63
	Broward	69	1561	69	1542	54	64
	Miami-Dade	69	1547	61	1493	49	57
	Hillsborough	68	1559	60	1493	53	62
	Orange	70	1555	59	1479	54	60
	Palm Beach	71	1572	66	1521	55	63
5	State	66	1611	57	1648	61	64
	Broward	65	1604	61	1677	60	69
	Miami-Dade	64	1578	57	1645	57	61
	Hillsborough	61	1585	55	1640	58	62
	Orange	63	1584	53	1622	59	61
	Palm Beach	65	1609	59	1658	60	66
6	State	56	1644	47	1653	54	61
	Broward	57	1659	54	1698	57	65
	Miami-Dade	44	1548	40	1600	43	51
	Hillsborough	54	1639	47	1661	54	63
	Orange	54	1629	46	1642	52	58
	Palm Beach	55	1645	49	1672	53	61
7	State	53	1712	53	1778	56	65
	Broward	56	1742	58	1817	58	69
	Miami-Dade	43	1629	44	1726	46	57
	Hillsborough	50	1698	53	1790	56	67
	Orange	55	1727	53	1777	57	65
	Palm Beach	53	1714	55	1793	55	66
8	State	44	1824	59	1866	67	67
	Broward	47	1845	63	1894	71	71
	Miami-Dade	34	1753	49	1819	57	59
	Hillsborough	44	1835	62	1893	69	72
	Orange	42	1813	57	1855	65	65
	Palm Beach	44	1821	62	1884	66	69
9	State	36	1860	59	1918	63	71
	Broward	37	1870	62	1935	65	73
	Miami-Dade	28	1785	48	1870	53	63
	Hillsborough	39	1893	66	1953	69	76
	Orange	34	1843	56	1904	61	70
	Palm Beach	36	1853	60	1925	63	72
10	State	32	1906	63	1979	61	58
	Broward	29	1894	63	1977	62	59
	Miami-Dade	23	1829	54	1935	50	47
	Hillsborough	34	1939	68	2001	68	63
	Orange	28	1869	58	1958	58	56
	Palm Beach	36	1947	71	2013	66	64

In Reading, the percentage of Broward students scoring at Achievement Level 3 or higher exceeded the statewide rate in Grades 6, 7, 8, and 9. This trend of exceeding statewide performance was also demonstrated in the median national percentile rank earned on the Reading NRT at the same grade levels, as well as at Grade 10. Broward students are doing as well as students statewide in SSS Reading at Grade 3, although they scored slightly below the state on the FCAT NRT. Broward students in Grades 4, 5, and 10 scored slightly behind students statewide on the Reading portion of the FCAT SSS, and this trend was also demonstrated at Grades 4 and 5 on the NRT.

In Mathematics, Broward students performed equal to or better than students statewide. At Grades 3, 4, and 7, the proportion of Broward students scoring at Achievement Level 3 or higher in Mathematics exceeded the statewide rate by 5 percentage points. At Grades 5 and 8, the percent of students in Broward scoring at Achievement Level 3 or higher exceeded the statewide rate by 4 percentage points. The largest difference was at Grade 6, where the percent of Broward students scoring at Achievement Level 3 or higher surpassed the statewide rate by 7 percentage points. Broward Grade 9 students also outperformed the statewide rate by 3 percentage points. Grade 10 students matched the statewide rate. At all grade levels, Broward's median national percentile rank on the Mathematics portion of the FCAT NRT exceeded the state average.

This memorandum can be accessed on the Student Assessment & School Performance Department website at <http://www.broward.k12.fl.us/studentassessment/reports.htm>. School-by-school results, as well as state and district summary data, may be found on the Florida Department of Education website at <http://fcats.fldoe.org/>. Further analysis of the school-by-school data will be forthcoming. Individual Student Reports are expected to be delivered to the District during the week of May 23, 2005 and will be distributed to schools as quickly as possible. **If you have any questions regarding this release, please contact me at (754) 321-2470, or Kimberley Kraft, Director of Student Assessment & School Performance, at (754) 321-4250.**

FT/KAB/KEK/SL:jp

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