

**THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA
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May 11, 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 HIGH SCHOOL RETAKES**

On April 27, 2005, the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) released the 2005 results from the Florida Writing Assessment. Those results showed that Broward County students scored higher on the Writing Assessment than the statewide average at all grade levels and that the majority of Broward students (91% or more) at all grade levels scored above the proficient level. Today the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) released additional results from the 2005 Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT). These results include scores for those students participating in the March 2005 FCAT administration for the purposes of meeting high school graduation requirements (Retake assessments). The FCAT Retake scores are reported in terms of passing rates.

FCAT Retake Results: Graduation Requirement

The FCAT results released today only reflect those Broward students who participated in the March 2005 FCAT for the purposes of meeting high school graduation requirements. These results include those retained grade 10 students who had taken the 10th grade FCAT previously, but did not earn passing scores on the Sunshine State Standards (SSS) portion in Reading and/or Mathematics, as well as those grade 11, 12, and Adult students who have not yet met the FCAT graduation requirement, including those who are newly enrolled in the Florida public school system. The results indicate that:

- Of the 2,198 twelfth graders in Broward who took the Reading SSS subtest, 396 (18%) met or exceeded the passing criteria. This represents a decrease of 18 percentage points in the passing rate from the previous year in Reading.
- Of the 1,423 twelfth graders in Broward who took the Mathematics SSS subtest, 527 (37%) met or exceeded the passing criteria; this represents a 10% increase in the passing rate from the previous year.
- At the eleventh grade, 5,099 Broward students took the Reading SSS subtest and 1,224 (24%) passed. Also at the eleventh grade, 3,247 Broward students took the Mathematics SSS subtest and 1,234 (38%) passed.

- Of those retained tenth grade students who participated in the FCAT Retake administration, 23% (80 of 349) earned passing scores in Reading and 34% (98 of 288) earned passing scores in Mathematics.

Disaggregated Retake 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 students participating in Adult education programs. The passing rates for those groups of students are presented in Table 1 for years 2003 through 2005. As noted, there is a decrease among the percent of students earning passing scores in Reading in 2005, as compared to 2004. However, the percent of students earning passing scores in Mathematics increased in 2005 as compared to 2004.

Table 1: Passing Rates among Broward Retake Students on FCAT SSS, 2003-2005

		SSS READING			SSS MATHEMATICS		
		Number Tested	Percent Passed	Number Passed	Number Tested	Percent Passed	Number Passed
Grade 10	2003	*	*	*	*	*	*
	2004	176	25%	44	131	29%	38
	2005	349	23%	80	288	34%	98
Grade 11	2003	4,775	24%	1,146	3,448	38%	1,310
	2004	5,051	34%	1,717	3,472	30%	1,042
	2005	5,099	24%	1,224	3,247	38%	1,234
Grade 12	2003	1,644	23%	378	1,374	38%	522
	2004	1,722	36%	620	1,430	27%	386
	2005	2,198	18%	396	1,423	37%	527
Adult	2003	7	**	**	2	**	**
	2004	141	19%	27	101	10%	10
	2005	263	6%	16	100	18%	18

*Disaggregated data for tenth grade Retake students were not available until 2004.
 **No data are reported when fewer than 10 students were tested.

For the 1,802 12th grade students who did not meet the passing criteria in Reading and for the 896 who did not meet the passing criteria in Mathematics, there will be another opportunity to take the FCAT in June of 2005. 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, in some cases, students may be exempted from the FCAT graduation requirement or may meet the requirement via an alternative assessment.

Comparison to Statewide Rates and Other Large Districts in Florida

Table 2 summarizes the FCAT Retake results for twelfth grade students for Broward, Florida as a whole, and four of the largest school districts in the State (Miami-Dade, Orange, Palm Beach, and Hillsborough). In general, 12th grade students participating in the Spring 2005 FCAT Retake administration have had multiple opportunities (five previous attempts) to pass the Grade 10 FCAT.

Reading scores for Broward reflect an 18% passing rate at the twelfth grade level. This is below the passing rates statewide (20%) and in three of the four largest school districts in the state (Orange, Palm Beach, and Hillsborough). In Mathematics, scores for Broward twelfth graders reflect a 37% passing rate, which exceeds the statewide passing rate (35%) and the passing rates in two of the largest districts in the state (Miami-Dade and Orange).

Table 2: FCAT 12th Grade Reading and Mathematics Passing Rates 2005

District/State	SSS READING			SSS MATHEMATICS		
	Number Tested	Percent Passed	Number Passed	Number Tested	Percent Passed	Number Passed
State	18,904	20%	3,781	11,593	35%	4,058
Broward	2,198	18%	396	1,423	37%	527
Miami-Dade	3,853	15%	578	2,463	30%	739
Orange	1,513	19%	287	995	35%	348
Palm Beach	1,251	19%	238	611	39%	238
Hillsborough	1,108	22%	244	606	39%	236

Table 3 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. Reading scores for Broward reflect a 24% passing rate at the eleventh grade level. This is below the passing rate statewide (25%), but in line with or above the passing rates of four other large districts in Florida. In Mathematics, scores for Broward eleventh graders reflect a 38% passing rate, which is in line with the statewide passing rate (38%) and above the passing rates for Miami-Dade and Hillsborough Counties, but below that of Orange and Palm Beach Counties.

Table 3: FCAT 11th Grade Reading and Mathematics Passing Rates 2005

District/State	SSS READING			SSS MATHEMATICS		
	Number Tested	Percent Passed	Number Passed	Number Tested	Percent Passed	Number Passed
State	49,092	25%	12,273	29,846	38%	11,341
Broward	5,099	24%	1,224	3,247	38%	1,234
Miami-Dade	8,298	19%	1,577	5,398	32%	1,727
Orange	3,829	23%	881	2,538	40%	1,015
Palm Beach	4,145	24%	995	2,545	41%	1,043
Hillsborough	3,688	24%	885	2,291	35%	802

Table 4 presents the Retake results for grade 10 students. In general, these are students who have been retained in the tenth grade and who have attempted the Grade 10 FCAT at least once before. It is important to note that results in Table 4 do not reflect the performance of tenth grade students who participated in the FCAT for the first time in the spring of 2005.

Table 4: FCAT 10th Grade (Retakes) Reading and Mathematics Passing Rates 2005

District/State	SSS READING			SSS MATHEMATICS		
	Number Tested	Percent Passed	Number Passed	Number Tested	Percent Passed	Number Passed
State	4,862	17%	827	3,520	28%	986
Broward	349	23%	80	288	34%	98
Miami-Dade	1,365	12%	164	1,013	24%	243
Orange	232	18%	42	171	31%	53
Palm Beach	342	23%	79	259	41%	106
Hillsborough	236	14%	33	171	32%	55

Reading scores for Broward Retake students reflect a 23% passing rate at the tenth grade level. This exceeds the passing rate statewide (17%) and in three of the four other large districts in Florida (Miami-Dade, Orange, and Hillsborough). In Mathematics, scores for Broward tenth grade Retake students reflect a 34% passing rate, which also exceeds that of the statewide passing rate (28%) and three of the four other large districts in Florida (Miami-Dade, Orange, and Hillsborough). Grade 10 Retake students in Palm Beach outperformed Broward students in Mathematics.

Individual student results will be in schools no later than May 13, 2005. Again, students who did not meet the passing criteria in Reading and/or Mathematics during this FCAT administration will have another opportunity to take the FCAT in June of 2005.

This memorandum can be accessed on the Student Assessment & School Performance 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/>. If you have any questions regarding this release, please feel free to contact me at (754) 321-2470 or Kimberley Kraft, Director of Student Assessment & School Performance, at (754) 321-4257.

FT/KAB/KEK:sl

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