

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

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*Approved Memorandum with Signatures on File*  
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TO: School Board Members

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

VIA: Frank Till  
Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: **RELEASE OF 2006 FLORIDA COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT TEST  
(FCAT) RESULTS FOR GRADE 3**

Today the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) released results from the 2006 Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) Sunshine State Standards (SSS) and Norm-Referenced Test (NRT) Reading and Mathematics subtests for third grade students in Broward County. **Examination of these results revealed the largest year-to-year gain in the proportion of third grade students reading at or above grade level; statewide this gain was more than double any previous year-to-year gain. Schools continued to show year-to-year improvement in mathematics.** This memorandum summarizes these results for the District. Specifically, the third grade Reading and Mathematics state, district, and school-by-school summary data for both the SSS and NRT portions of the FCAT are discussed. These scores are reported as the 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.

In the forthcoming pages you will see that:

- The percentage of third grade students in Broward County scoring at Achievement Level 3 or higher on the SSS Reading test has increased steadily over the past five years, from 62% in 2002 to 75% in 2006. A similar trend was registered in Mathematics, where the percent of third grade students in Broward County scoring at Achievement Level 3 or higher has increased from 66% in 2002 to 77% in 2006.
- The proportion of third grade students scoring at Achievement Level 1 in Reading continues to decline; this rate has decreased from 23% in 2002 to 13% in 2006. Correspondingly, the number of third grade students not meeting FCAT promotion criteria decreased from 23% (4,686) in 2002 to 13% (2,775) in 2006.
- The percentage of third grade students scoring at Achievement Level 3 or higher on the SSS Reading subtest increased by eight percentage points from the previous year.
- At least 87% of Broward third grade students are eligible for promotion to the fourth grade, based solely upon their performance on the SSS Reading subtest.
- In examining the Norm-Referenced Test (NRT) data, Broward's median score was in line with the state in Reading (State 61, Broward 61), and slightly above the state in Mathematics (State 67, Broward 69).

### Grade 3 Reading and Mathematics Results

Table 1 shows the results from the FCAT SSS and NRT Reading subtest for Broward's third grade students over the past five years. The rate of students performing at Achievement Level 2 or higher in Reading increased by seven percentage points in 2006 (80% to 87%) as compared to the previous year, and the proportion of students performing at Achievement Level 3 or higher in Reading increased by eight percentage points this year (from 67% to 75%). These increases demonstrate a continuing trend of improved performance in FCAT Reading on the SSS. The percentage of third grade students performing within Achievement Level 1 registered a seven percentage point decrease from 2005 to 2006 (from 20% to 13%). On the NRT portion of the FCAT this year, Broward students equaled the statewide performance with a Median National Percentile Rank of 61. Both Florida and Broward County exceeded the national average (50<sup>th</sup> percentile).

Table 1  
*Broward Third Grade Student Performance in FCAT Reading*

School Year	FCAT SSS Achievement Levels*			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
2005	20% (4,208)	80% (16,831)	67% (14,096)	49
2006	13% (2,775)	87% (18,571)	75% (16,010)	61

\*Due to rounding procedures, these percentages may sum to slightly more or less than 100%.

\*\*2005 & 2006 data are based on the new FCAT NRT (SAT-10) and should not be directly compared to 2004 and earlier data (SAT-9).

Table 2 shows the results from the FCAT SSS Mathematics subtest for Broward's third grade students over the past five years. The percent of students who scored at Achievement Level 3 or higher has increased by 11% since 2002, including a gain of 3% from 2005 (74%) to 2006 (77%). It can be seen that as the number of students in Achievement Level 1 decreases, there are corresponding increases in students performing at higher levels. On the Mathematics portion of the FCAT NRT, Broward students scored at a Median National Percentile Rank of 69, slightly above the statewide average of 67 and well above the national average percentile rank of 50.

Table 2  
*Broward Third Grade Student Performance in FCAT Mathematics*

School Year	FCAT SSS Achievement Levels*			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
2005	13% (2,737)	88% (18,524)	74% (15,577)	64
2006	10% (2,136)	91% (19,441)	77% (16,450)	69

\*Due to rounding procedures, these percentages may sum to slightly more or less than 100%.

\*\*2005 & 2006 data are based on the new FCAT NRT (SAT-10) and should not be directly compared to 2004 and earlier data (SAT-9).

### Comparison to Statewide Results and Other Large Districts in Florida

The results released by FDOE today reflect that third grade students in Broward County continue to demonstrate gains in both Reading and Mathematics on the SSS version of FCAT. In addition, these results indicate that Broward County students continue to perform in line with statewide averages and to earn scores that meet or exceed performance of students in other large districts throughout the state.

Table 3 below presents the proportions of third grade students scoring in each Achievement Level in Reading for Broward, Florida as a whole, and four of the largest schools districts in the state (Miami-Dade, Orange, Palm Beach, and Hillsborough Counties). The proportion of third grade students scoring at Achievement Level 3 or higher in Reading in Broward County was in line with the state average and higher than the percent of students in Miami-Dade, Orange, Palm Beach, and Hillsborough Counties. Table 3 also shows that fewer third grade students in Broward are scoring at Achievement Level 1 in Reading than in Florida as a whole, and Miami-Dade, Orange, Palm Beach, and Hillsborough Counties. With regard to the FCAT NRT Reading data, Table 3 reflects that Broward students are scoring at a Median National Percentile Rank that equals the statewide performance. Broward students registered performance that equaled or exceeded the performance in the four large districts (Miami-Dade, Orange, Palm Beach, and Hillsborough Counties).

Table 3  
*FCAT SSS Reading Results (Grade 3) By Achievement Level\**

District/State	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	% Scoring Level 3 or Above	NRT Median National Percentile Rank
State	14%	11%	37%	33%	5%	75%	61
<b>Broward</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>61</b>
Miami-Dade	18%	11%	37%	30%	4%	71%	57
Orange	16%	12%	37%	31%	5%	72%	58
Palm Beach	15%	11%	35%	33%	6%	74%	61
Hillsborough	16%	11%	36%	32%	5%	73%	59

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

Table 4 below presents the proportions of third grade students scoring in each Achievement Level in Mathematics for Broward, Florida as a whole, and four of the large comparison districts. The proportion of third grade students scoring at Achievement Level 3 or higher in Mathematics in Broward County exceeded the state average and all four of the largest districts in Florida. Table 4 also shows that fewer third grade students in Broward scored at Achievement Level 1 in Mathematics than the state and all four of the largest districts in Florida. In general, Broward third grade students outperformed their counterparts in other large districts in Mathematics. Similar results were registered on the FCAT NRT Mathematics assessment, where Broward students scored at a median national percentile rank that is above the state, as well as above the median score earned by students in Miami-Dade, Orange, Palm Beach, and Hillsborough Counties.

Table 4  
*FCAT SSS Mathematics Results (Grade 3) By Achievement Level\**

District/State	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	% Scoring Level 3 or Above	NRT Median National Percentile Rank
State	12%	16%	34%	27%	10%	72%	67
<b>Broward</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>69</b>
Miami-Dade	15%	16%	34%	26%	9%	69%	64
Orange	16%	18%	32%	23%	11%	66%	62
Palm Beach	12%	15%	34%	27%	10%	72%	67
Hillsborough	14%	17%	32%	26%	10%	69%	68

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

### Elementary Level Superintendent's Schools

Fifteen of 17 (88%) of elementary level Superintendent Schools improved the percent of students in Achievement Level 3 or higher in Reading. Similarly, 12 of 17 (71%) improved the percent of students scoring in Achievement Level 3 or higher in Mathematics. Eleven (56%) showed improvement in both Reading and Mathematics.

### Promotion to Grade 4

The Grade 3 FCAT Reading tests are also used as criteria for promotion into the fourth grade. According to Florida Statute 1008.25 (5) (b), third grade students are eligible for promotion by either scoring at Achievement Level 2 or above on the SSS Reading subtest or demonstrating an exemption from this criterion through good cause. Among the available exemption methods for demonstrating readiness for promotion into the fourth grade is scoring proficiently on the Reading subtest on the NRT portion of the FCAT. The FDOE has established a cut score of the 45<sup>th</sup> percentile for grade 3 promotion. It can be seen from Table 1 that 87% of students in Broward County satisfied the promotion criterion by scoring at Achievement Level 2 or higher on the SSS Reading portion of the FCAT. Conversely, these results lead to the conclusion that approximately 13% of Broward third graders (approximately 2,775 students) are at risk for not being eligible for promotion to the fourth grade solely based on their performance on the SSS Reading test. However, these students may have demonstrated readiness for promotion via the Reading portion of the FCAT NRT. Individual student NRT scores are expected to be available to schools shortly. Schools can then determine which third grade students have met the promotion criteria via the FCAT NRT.

For those students who did not demonstrate readiness for promotion on either the SSS or NRT portion of the FCAT Reading test, there will be several opportunities for promotion through alternative methods:

- The Reading Comprehension subtest of the Stanford Achievement Test, Tenth Edition (SAT-10) will be administered on May 8, 2006 at the student's home school. Scoring at or above the 45<sup>th</sup> percentile on the SAT-10 will satisfy requirements for promotion to the fourth grade.

- For those third grade students who still do not demonstrate readiness for promotion with the SAT-10, a Portfolio reading assessment will be conducted prior to the end of the 2005-06 school year.
- Students who do not meet the promotion criteria via the Portfolio assessment prior to the end of the 2005-06 school year will be eligible to attend Summer Reading Camp. Another Portfolio assessment will be administered at the conclusion of the Reading Camp.

Further information regarding promotion and retention issues will be forthcoming from the Core Curriculum Department.

### **School Accountability**

The FCAT results released by the FDOE today are not the same data that will be used to determine school grades under the A+ Plan or Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) under No Child Left Behind (NCLB). Instead, these results are for all third grade students who participated in the Spring 2006 administration of the FCAT. Only those scores for specific eligible students as defined by each accountability system will be included in the calculation of school grades under the A+ Plan and AYP under NCLB. For example, students included in the school-by-school data released today may have only been enrolled at a school for a short period of time, while students must be enrolled for the full academic year in order to be included in the data calculations for school grades and AYP.

This memorandum and the attachment summarizing the school-by-school performance data, can be accessed on the Student Assessment & School Performance Web site at <http://www.broward.k12.fl.us/studentassessment/reports.htm>. On Wednesday, May 3, individual student reports will be available on the FCAT Parent Network Web site at [www.fcaptoparentnetwork.com](http://www.fcaptoparentnetwork.com). **If you have any questions regarding this release, please feel free to contact me at (754) 321-2470 or Dr. Russell Clement, Director, Student Assessment & School Performance at 754-321-4257.**

FT/KB/RC:jp  
Attachments

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