

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

**DR. FRANK TILL
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

Telephone: (754) 321-2600

Facsimile: (754) 321-2701

Approved Memorandum with Signatures on File

May 1, 2006

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 HIGH SCHOOL RETAKES**

Today the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) released the 2006 results of the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) for those Broward students who participated in the March 2006 FCAT for the purposes of meeting high school graduation requirements. These results include those retained tenth grade students who had taken the tenth 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 may 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 2,665 twelfth grade students in Broward who took the Reading SSS subtest, 346 (13%) met or exceeded the passing criteria. This represents a decrease of 5 percentage points in the passing rate from the previous year in Reading but is in line with general performance of tenth grade students across the state (13% vs. 14%).
- Of the 1,128 twelfth grade students who took the Mathematics SSS subtest, 338 (30%) met or exceeded the passing criteria; this is a 7% decrease in the passing rate from the previous year.
- At the eleventh grade, 5,382 Broward students took the Reading SSS subtest and 1,023 (19%) passed. Also at the eleventh grade, 2,817 Broward students took the Mathematics SSS subtest and 986 (35%) passed.
- The percentage of tenth grade students retaking the grade 10 FCAT who met the passing criteria on the SSS Reading continues to decline over the past three years. There is a six percent decrease in the passing rate on the SSS Mathematics from the previous year.

Disaggregated Retake Results for Broward

The results released by FDOE today report the passing rates for students in grades 10, 11, and 12 as well as students who are participating in adult education programs. The passing rates for

those groups of students are presented in Table 1 for years 2004 through 2006. As displayed in Table 1, there is a decrease among the percent of students earning passing scores in Reading and Mathematics in 2006, as compared to 2005.

Table 1

Passing Rates Among Broward Retake Students on FCAT SSS, 2004-2006

		SSS READING			SSS MATHEMATICS		
		Number Tested	Percent Passed	Number Passed	Number Tested	Percent Passed	Number Passed
Grade 10	2004	176	25%	44	131	29%	38
	2005	349	23%	80	288	34%	98
	2006	353	11%	39	241	28%	67
Grade 11	2004	5,051	34%	1,717	3,472	30%	1,042
	2005	5,009	24%	1,202	3,247	38%	1,234
	2006	5,382	19%	1,023	2,817	35%	986
Grade 12	2004	1,722	36%	620	1,430	27%	386
	2005	2,198	18%	396	1,423	37%	527
	2006	2,665	13%	346	1,128	30%	338
Adult	2004	141	19%	27	101	10%	10
	2005	263	6%	16	100	18%	18
	2006	338	4%	14	91	13%	12

For the 2,319 twelfth grade ^{students} who did not meet the passing criteria in Reading and for the 790 who did not meet the passing criteria in Mathematics, there will be another opportunity to take the FCAT in late June 2006. 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 State-Wide Rates and Other Large Districts in Florida

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

Reading scores for Broward reflect a 13% passing rate at the twelfth grade level. This is in line with the passing rates statewide (14%) and with three of the four school districts displayed in the table (Miami-Dade, Orange, and Palm Beach Counties). In Mathematics, scores for Broward twelfth grade students reflect a 30% passing rate, which is in line with the statewide passing rate (29%) and the passing rates in two of the largest districts in the state (Miami-Dade and Orange Counties).

Table 2

FCAT 12th Grade Reading and Mathematics Passing Rates 2006

District/State	SSS READING			SSS MATHEMATICS		
	Number Tested	Percent Passed	Number Passed	Number Tested	Percent Passed	Number Passed
State	23,129	14%	3,238	10,782	29%	3,127
Broward	2,665	13%	346	1,128	30%	338
Miami-Dade	4,484	12%	538	2,232	25%	558
Orange	1,746	13%	227	905	27%	244
Palm Beach	1,414	13%	184	597	34%	203
Hillsborough	1,392	15%	209	536	29%	155

Table 3 presents the retake results for eleventh graders. In general eleventh grade students have also had multiple opportunities (three attempts) to pass the grade 10 FCAT. Reading scores for Broward reflect a 19% passing rate at the eleventh grade level. This exceeds the passing rate statewide (17%) and is in line with or above the passing rates of three other large districts in Florida. In Mathematics, scores for Broward eleventh graders reflect a 35% passing rate, which exceeds the statewide passing rate (33%) and above the passing rates for Miami-Dade and Orange Counties, but below that of Hillsborough and Palm Beach Counties.

Table 3

FCAT 11th Grade Reading and Mathematics Passing Rates 2006

District/State	SSS READING			SSS MATHEMATICS		
	Number Tested	Percent Passed	Number Passed	Number Tested	Percent Passed	Number Passed
State	51,567	17%	8,766	26,399	33%	8,712
Broward	5,382	19%	1,023	2,817	35%	986
Miami-Dade	8,631	14%	1,208	4,553	26%	1,184
Orange	3,810	16%	610	2,091	31%	648
Palm Beach	3,802	18%	684	1,987	41%	815
Hillsborough	4,053	18%	730	2,119	31%	657

Table 4 presents the Retake results for students in grade 10. In general these are students who have attempted the grade 10 FCAT at least once before. It is important to note that the results in the table do not reflect the performance of tenth grade students who attempted the FCAT for the first time in March 2006.

Table 4

FCAT 10th Grade (Retakes) Reading and Mathematics Passing Rates 2006

District/State	SSS READING			SSS MATHEMATICS		
	Number Tested	Percent Passed	Number Passed	Number Tested	Percent Passed	Number Passed
State	5,762	10%	576	3,852	25%	963
Broward	353	11%	39	241	28%	67
Miami-Dade	1,836	8%	147	1,157	20%	231
Orange	410	9%	37	300	21%	63
Palm Beach	696	14%	97	460	36%	166
Hillsborough	31	*	*	126	28%	35

*To provide meaningful results and to protect the privacy of individual students, data are printed only when the total number of students in a group is at least 10 and when the performance of individuals would not be disclosed.

Reading scores for Broward reflect an 11% passing rate at the tenth grade level. This is in line with passing rates statewide (10%) and exceeds two of the four other school districts displayed in the table (Miami-Dade and Orange Counties). In Mathematics, scores for Broward tenth grade Retake students reflect a 28% passing rate, which exceeds the statewide passing rate (25%) and is equal to or greater than the passing rates of three other large districts in Florida (Miami-Dade, Orange, and Hillsborough Counties). Grade 10 Retake students in Palm Beach outperformed Broward students in Mathematics.

Individual student results will be available in PDF format for schools to access on-line at the CEB McGraw Web site later today. This memorandum and a summary of school level results are available on the Student Assessment & School Performance Department Web site at <http://www.broward.k12.fl.us/studentassessment/reports.htm>. Again, rising grade 12 and adult 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 2006. If you have any questions regarding this release, **please contact me at (754) 321-2470 or Dr. Russell Clement, Director of 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