

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

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*Approved memorandum on file.*

May 23, 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 GRADES 4-10**

Today, the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) released statewide, district, and school-by-school results of the 2006 Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test—Sunshine State Standards (FCAT-SSS) in Reading and Mathematics for grades 4 through 10 and Science in grade 5, 8, and 11. This memorandum summarizes these results for Broward County Public Schools (BCPS).

The results released today include all students who participated in the 2006 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. Today's results also 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-SSS are reported via several types of scores. Student performance results are presented in terms of mean 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 achievement level, 1 through 5. Students scoring at Achievement Level 3 or higher are considered to be performing on or above grade level.

In the following summary you will find that:

- In Reading, Broward students exceeded the performance of students across the state in grades 4 to 10 and were in line with statewide performance at grade 3 with 75% of third grade students reading on or above grade level. Increases in the percent of students scoring at Achievement Level 3 or higher on the SSS Reading subtest occurred in grade 3 (8 percentage point increase), grade 5 (3 points), grade 6 (9 points), grade 7 (8 points),

grade 8 (4 points), grade 9 (5 points), and grade 10 (5 points) compared to the 2005 school year.

- In Mathematics, Broward students performed 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 grade 3 (4 percentage point increase), grade 4 (8 points), grade 5 (4 points), grade 6 (5 points), grade 7 (5 points), grade 8 (1 point), grade 9 (1 point), and grade 10 (4 points).
- At grade 10, passing rates among Broward students increased from the previous year in both Reading (from 49% to 54%) and Mathematics (from 76% to 79%).
- In Science, Broward students in grades 5 and 11 demonstrated increased scores relative to last year's performance. Specifically, grade 5 students earned average scores that were 3 scale score points higher than last year, and grade 11 students earned average scores that were 6 scale score points above last year. Grade 8 students, however, earned average scores that were 2 score points below last year.

### **Broward FCAT Results in Reading and Mathematics**

Table 1 summarizes BCPS student performance on the Reading subtest, from 2002 to 2006. Although third grade results were previously released, the data have been included in the tables below for comparative purposes. Examination of the table revealed that the largest gains on the Reading portion of the FCAT-SSS occurred at grade 6, with an increase of 9 percentage points noted in the proportion of students scoring at Achievement Level 3 or higher from 2005 to 2006. Gains in Reading were also demonstrated at grades 3, 5, 7, 8, 9, and 10. Performance in Reading at grade 4 was maintained from the previous year, which was the highest in Broward. When the FCAT-SSS Reading results are compared over the five-year period shown in Table 1, increases in student achievement were noted at all grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9. Performance in grade 10 has remained stable during the time period examined.

Examination of changes in the percentage of students scoring at or above Achievement Level 3 for 2005 to 2006 revealed an increase at all grade levels except fourth grade. Sixty-nine percent of Broward's fourth grade students scored at or above Achievement Level 3 for both school years. The FDOE reported that statewide, however, fourth grade performance rates decreased from 71% to 66%. Although Broward's fourth grade students registered a stable proficiency rate from 2005 to 2006, they outperformed students statewide on the most recent test.

2006 FCAT Results for Grades 4-10

May 23, 2006

Page 3 of 9

Table 1

*Broward FCAT Reading Results, 2002 to 2006*

Grade	Year	SSS						
		Mean Scale Score	Percent of Students in Each Achievement Level					
			1	2	3	4	5	3 or Higher
3	2002	297	23	14	34	23	5	62
	2003	298	23	14	34	24	5	63
	2004	303	21	13	33	26	6	65
	2005	306	20	13	32	28	7	67
	2006	314	13	12	38	33	5	75
4	2002	304	27	15	30	22	7	59
	2003	306	25	15	31	24	6	61
	2004	318	15	15	36	27	7	70
	2005	316	17	14	35	27	7	69
	2006	318	16	15	34	27	8	69
5	2002	287	27	19	31	19	4	54
	2003	289	25	19	33	20	3	56
	2004	296	22	18	32	22	6	60
	2005	302	19	17	34	24	7	65
	2006	306	17	16	34	26	7	68
6	2002	298	26	18	30	20	6	56
	2003	300	25	18	31	20	6	57
	2004	300	24	20	32	18	6	56
	2005	302	23	20	32	19	6	57
	2006	315	17	17	31	27	8	66
7	2002	298	27	21	30	17	5	52
	2003	303	24	21	30	19	6	55
	2004	303	24	21	31	18	6	56
	2005	304	24	21	31	19	6	56
	2006	315	16	19	35	23	7	64
8	2002	300	26	26	30	14	3	47
	2003	305	23	26	31	17	3	51
	2004	301	26	26	28	15	4	47
	2005	301	24	29	31	13	3	47
	2006	305	20	29	34	15	2	51
9	2002	289	44	27	17	8	4	29
	2003	291	42	27	18	8	5	31
	2004	295	40	30	18	8	5	30
	2005	302	34	29	21	10	6	37
	2006	308	28	31	26	11	5	42
10	2002	307	29	36	21	8	6	35
	2003	304	33	33	20	8	7	35
	2004	303	35	30	18	7	10	34
	2005	294	41	30	16	6	7	29
	2006	302	36	30	17	7	9	34

Table 2 presents the results of Broward student performance on the Mathematics subtest of the FCAT, from 2002 to 2006.

Table 2

*Broward FCAT Mathematics Results, 2002 to 2006*

Grade	Year	SSS						
		Mean Scale Score	Percent of Students in Each Achievement Level					
			1	2	3	4	5	3 or Higher
3	2002	314	17	18	33	24	9	66
	2003	313	17	17	33	24	9	66
	2004	318	15	17	34	25	9	68
	2005	328	13	14	33	28	13	73
	2006	334	10	14	33	30	14	77
4	2002	303	21	22	33	18	5	56
	2003	305	19	21	36	18	5	59
	2004	321	13	19	36	24	8	68
	2005	320	13	19	37	23	8	69
	2006	334	9	14	35	29	13	77
5	2002	327	21	24	23	22	10	55
	2003	326	21	24	23	23	9	55
	2004	331	17	24	24	24	10	58
	2005	335	14	25	26	28	8	61
	2006	339	12	23	26	28	11	65
6	2002	310	29	20	26	16	9	51
	2003	312	27	22	26	16	9	51
	2004	312	28	19	26	18	9	53
	2005	316	26	20	27	18	9	54
	2006	322	22	19	28	20	11	59
7	2002	302	27	20	27	16	10	53
	2003	304	27	20	27	17	9	53
	2004	310	25	19	26	18	11	56
	2005	313	21	21	28	19	11	58
	2006	318	18	19	30	21	11	63
8	2002	310	24	21	30	15	10	55
	2003	316	20	20	32	15	12	59
	2004	317	21	20	29	16	15	60
	2005	320	19	18	30	17	15	63
	2006	322	17	19	32	17	15	64
9	2002	288	28	25	26	15	7	48
	2003	295	22	26	28	17	7	52
	2004	297	22	23	28	18	9	55
	2005	305	18	21	30	21	11	62
	2006	308	16	21	30	21	12	63
10	2002	323	17	21	26	27	9	62
	2003	322	18	21	26	26	9	61
	2004	325	15	21	26	28	10	65
	2005	321	15	22	28	27	8	63
	2006	327	14	19	26	32	10	67

As seen in Table 2, the largest gains in SSS Mathematics were observed at grade 4, where an 8 percentage point increase in the proportion of students scoring at Achievement Level 3 or higher

compared to 2005 was registered. Gains from the previous year were also observed in grades 3 (4 percentage points), 5 (4 points), 6 (5 points), 7 (5 points), and 8 (1 point), 9 (1 point), and 10 (4 points) scored at Achievement Level 3 or higher as compared to the previous year. When the FCAT-SSS Mathematics results were compared over the five-year period as shown in the above table, increases in student achievement were noted at all grade levels in the period from 2002 to 2006.

### Superintendent Schools

Table 3 presents the percent of Superintendent Schools registering improvement in the percent of students scoring in Achievement Level 3 or higher in Reading and Mathematics by grade level. Most the Superintendent Schools registered gains in Reading and Mathematics at all grade levels except grade 4, where only 39% of the schools registered improvement. Examination of the table revealed that 50% of the schools in registered increased in mathematics at seventh grade and 50% registered increases in reading at eighth grade. These findings for grade 6, 7, and 8 should be viewed with caution as only two middle schools were identified as Superintendent Schools for the 2005-06 school year.

Table 3

#### *Percent of Superintendent Schools Registering Improvement by Grade Level*

Grade	Number of Schools	Percent of Schools Registering Improvement	
		Reading	Mathematics
3	18	83	72
4	18	39	89
5	18	72	78
6	2	100	100
7	2	100	50
8	2	50	100
9	13	85	62
10	13	77	62

### Graduation Requirements (Grade 10)

Table 4 (next page) summarizes the proportion of 10<sup>th</sup> grade students (10<sup>th</sup> grade students taking the FCAT for the first time and retained 10<sup>th</sup> grade students retaking the FCAT) 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 to 2006*

Subject Area	School Year	Percent Passing	
		Broward	State
Reading	2002	60	58
	2003	57	58
	2004	55	54
	2005	49	52
	2006	54	52
Mathematics	2002	75	72
	2003	74	73
	2004	78	76
	2005	76	77
	2006	79	77

The percent of grade 10 students in Broward passing the Reading portion of the FCAT increased from 49% to 54% in the past year, while the statewide passing rate remained the stable at 52% from the prior year. The grade 10 passing rate among Broward students for Mathematics increased from 76% to 79% in the past year, while the statewide passing rate remained the stable at 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 demonstrate that students in Broward County continue to demonstrate achievement comparable to statewide averages and at or exceeding 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 and the mean developmental scale score (DSS) on the Reading and Mathematics subtests.

## 2006 FCAT Results for Grades 4-10

May 23, 2006

Page 7 of 9

Table 5

*FCAT SSS Reading and Mathematics Results on the 2006 FCAT*

Grade	District/State	FCAT SSS			
		Reading		Mathematics	
		% Scoring Level 3 or Above	Mean DSS	% Scoring Level 3 or Above	Mean DSS
3	State	75	1382	72	1409
	<b>Broward</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>1383</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>1458</b>
	Miami-Dade	71	1335	69	1387
	Hillsborough	73	1369	69	1397
	Orange	72	1355	66	1375
	Palm Beach	74	1381	72	1414
4	State	66	1547	67	1534
	<b>Broward</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>1572</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>1604</b>
	Miami-Dade	64	1529	65	1522
	Hillsborough	63	1532	65	1520
	Orange	63	1524	64	1511
	Palm Beach	65	1547	67	1540
5	State	67	1619	57	1649
	<b>Broward</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>1626</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>1697</b>
	Miami-Dade	64	1585	53	1626
	Hillsborough	65	1607	58	1657
	Orange	65	1595	54	1626
	Palm Beach	66	1615	57	1653
6	State	64	1709	53	1681
	<b>Broward</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>1729</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>1724</b>
	Miami-Dade	62	1682	49	1653
	Hillsborough	61	1687	53	1689
	Orange	62	1694	49	1656
	Palm Beach	63	1712	55	1698
7	State	61	1773	55	1791
	<b>Broward</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>1800</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>1837</b>
	Miami-Dade	53	1717	48	1752
	Hillsborough	59	1761	56	1804
	Orange	59	1764	52	1776
	Palm Beach	59	1760	55	1798
8	State	46	1834	60	1872
	<b>Broward</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>1863</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>1900</b>
	Miami-Dade	40	1786	51	1830
	Hillsborough	45	1830	61	1884
	Orange	47	1836	60	1871
	Palm Beach	46	1831	61	1883
9	State	40	1890	59	1924
	<b>Broward</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>1901</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>1945</b>
	Miami-Dade	32	1819	49	1883
	Hillsborough	42	1912	63	1945
	Orange	38	1877	57	1915
	Palm Beach	42	1896	64	1944
10	State	32	1918	65	1987
	<b>Broward</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>1940</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>1999</b>
	Miami-Dade	27	1870	58	1955
	Hillsborough	35	1942	68	2002
	Orange	29	1878	60	1968
	Palm Beach	34	1929	68	2001

In Reading, the percentage of Broward students scoring at Achievement Level 3 or higher exceeded the statewide rate in all grades, except for grade 3 where we equaled the statewide rate. In Mathematics, Broward students performed better than students statewide at all grade levels.

### Broward FCAT Results in Science

Table 6 summarizes the results of the FCAT Science test for students in Broward County. Note that this is only the fourth year of administration for the Science assessment. Table 3 displays grade 10 results from 2003 and 2004, but these should not be directly compared to grade 11 results from 2005 and 2006.

Table 6

#### *Broward FCAT Science Results, 2003 to 2006*

Grade	Year	Mean Scale Score	SSS					
			Percent of Students in Each Achievement Level					
			1	2	3	4	5	3 or Higher
5	2003	281	**	**	**	**	**	**
	2004	288	**	**	**	**	**	**
	2005	295	**	**	**	**	**	**
	2006	298	30	35	27	6	2	35
8	2003	286	**	**	**	**	**	**
	2004	286	**	**	**	**	**	**
	2005	292	**	**	**	**	**	**
	2006	290	36	32	26	6	1	32
10	2003	289	**	**	**	**	**	**
	2004	286	**	**	**	**	**	**
11*	2005*	290	**	**	**	**	**	**
	2006	296	33	34	28	4	0	32

\*In 2003 and 2004, FCAT Science was administered at Grade 10. Beginning in 2005, Science was administered at Grade 11.

\*\*Achievement Levels were first reported in 2006.

In Broward County, average Science scaled scores increased at both grade 5 (3 points) and grade 11 (6 points) from 2005 to 2006. As mentioned, because the Science assessment at the high school level was previously administered to grade 10 students and is now administered at grade 11, direct comparisons between 2005 and 2006 results and prior year data are not possible.

The results released today reflect that students in Broward County continue to demonstrate achievement in Science comparable to statewide averages, and achievement levels at or above the performance of students in other large districts throughout the state. Table 7 (next page) presents comparative data for Broward County, Florida as a whole, and four other of the largest school districts in the state (Miami-Dade, Hillsborough, Orange, and Palm Beach).

An in-depth report providing additional information will be issued in late summer. Planned analyses include disaggregated summary of student performance by subgroups, school level success at meeting performance targets, and longitudinal trends in growth. In addition,

articulation reports will be provided which examine how well elementary schools have prepared students for middle school and how well middle schools have prepared students for high school.

Table 7

*FCAT SSS Science Results on the 2006 FCAT*

Grade	District/State	FCAT SSS Science	
		% Scoring Level 3 or Above	Mean Scale Score
5	State	35	299
	<b>Broward</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>298</b>
	Miami-Dade	29	288
	Hillsborough	35	299
	Orange	30	290
	Palm Beach	40	305
8	State	32	289
	<b>Broward</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>290</b>
	Miami-Dade	23	270
	Hillsborough	33	289
	Orange	32	289
	Palm Beach	35	292
11	State	35	298
	<b>Broward</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>296</b>
	Miami-Dade	25	282
	Hillsborough	40	304
	Orange	33	295
	Palm Beach	36	297

This memorandum can be accessed on the Student Assessment & School Performance Department Web site 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 Web site at <http://fcats.fldoe.org/>. Shipments of Individual Student Reports for Reading, Mathematics, and Science as well as Certificates and Performance Task Student Reports will not be delivered to the District in time for distribution prior to the end of the school year. Parents, however, can view their child's results and obtain a copy of the report from the FCAT Parent Network at [www.fcaptoparentnetwork.com](http://www.fcaptoparentnetwork.com). Parents will need their login ID and passwords, which have been previously distributed, to access the information. Parents should contact their child's school in the event that they have lost their passwords. **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/ML:dg

cc: Senior Management  
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