

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

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Approved memorandum on file.

May 24, 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) NORM-REFERENCED TEST (NRT) RESULTS FOR GRADES
4 THROUGH 10**

Today, the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) released statewide, district, and school-by-school results of the 2006 Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test, Norm-Referenced Test (FCAT-NRT) for grades 4 through 10. **These results, along with the yesterday's release of the FCAT Sunshine State Standards results, demonstrate continued improvement by Broward's students.** Broward's students performed above the national average in both Reading and Mathematics at all grade levels. In addition, increased performance was demonstrated in Reading and Mathematics at all grade levels, except eighth grade reading.

This memorandum summarizes these results for the District. Scores are reported for grades 3 through 10 for the NRT portions of the FCAT. It is important to note that FCAT-NRT results are **not** used to determine school grades under Florida's A+ Plan or Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) under the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act. Student performance on the FCAT-NRT is reported in terms of median national percentile rank (NPR) scores. As a norm-referenced test, the FCAT-NRT allows for comparisons between students in Broward County and a sample of students drawn from across the nation. NPR scores range from 1 to 99, where a score at the 50th percentile denotes average performance. In 2005, the FDOE adopted a new version of the FCAT-NRT based on a secure version of the tenth edition of the Stanford Achievement Test (SAT-10). Prior to 2005, the FCAT-NRT was based on the ninth edition of the Stanford (SAT-9). Consequently, results of the 2005 and 2006 FCAT-NRT should not be directly compared to previous years, as students taking the FCAT-NRT beginning in 2005 participated in a new version of this assessment (SAT-10) with updated normative data used for scoring.

In the following report you will find that:

- On FCAT-NRT Reading and Mathematics subtests, Broward County's median national percentile rank indicated performance that exceeded the national average in all grade levels, 3 through 10.

- Broward's students registered increased median NPRs on the Reading subtest in 2006 relative to 2005, with the exception of eighth grade. The eighth grade median NPR decreased from 71 in 2005 to 68 in 2006.
- On FCAT-NRT Mathematics subtest, Broward's student registered increased median NPRs at all grade levels from 2005 to 2006.

As Table 1 shows, Broward's median national percentile rank exceeded the national average (50th percentile) at all grade levels in Reading. **Although the median percentile rank scores earned by students in Broward County from 2002 to 2006 are reported, because the 2005 and 2006 FCAT-NRT assessment is a new version of the test (SAT-10), direct comparisons with 2004 and earlier data are not appropriate.** However, year-to-year increases were evidenced for all grade levels, except eighth grade. Although eighth grade reading performance was maintained well above the national average, a decrease was noted from a median NPR of 71 in 2005 to 68 in 2006.

Table 1

Broward FCAT-NRT Reading Results, 2002-2006

Grade	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
3	59	62	62	49	61
4	57	59	63	54	72
5	54	56	57	60	70
6	56	56	56	57	69
7	59	61	61	58	69
8	61	60	62	71	68
9	42	43	43	65	71
10	53	48	46	62	71

Table 2 displays the results from the Mathematics subtest. Review of the table demonstrated that Broward's median national percentile rank exceeded the national average (50th percentile) at all grade levels, 3 through 10. In addition, the median NPRs increased at all grade levels from 2005 to 2006.

Table 2

Broward FCAT-NRT Mathematics Results, 2002-2006

Grade	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
3	67	69	71	64	69
4	64	66	71	64	74
5	66	66	68	69	77
6	68	69	70	65	72
7	70	71	72	69	74
8	67	68	69	71	78
9	64	66	68	73	78
10	69	68	69	59	74

Comparisons to Statewide Results and Other Large Districts in Florida

Table 3 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 median national percentile rank on the FCAT-NRT Reading and Mathematics tests. The results released today show that Broward County's students registered scores that equaled or exceeded performance statewide in both Reading and Mathematics. In addition, Broward students' performance equaled or exceeded performance of students in other large districts throughout the state in both Reading and Mathematics.

Table 3
FCAT-NRT Reading and Mathematics Results, 2005-06

Grade	District/State	FCAT-NRT Median National Percentile Rank	
		Reading	Mathematics
3	State	61	67
	Broward	61	69
	Miami-Dade	57	64
	Hillsborough	59	68
	Orange	58	62
	Palm Beach	61	67
4	State	70	71
	Broward	72	74
	Miami-Dade	66	67
	Hillsborough	69	72
	Orange	68	66
	Palm Beach	71	71
5	State	69	71
	Broward	70	77
	Miami-Dade	65	66
	Hillsborough	67	73
	Orange	65	68
	Palm Beach	69	72
6	State	67	67
	Broward	69	72
	Miami-Dade	62	62
	Hillsborough	66	68
	Orange	65	65
	Palm Beach	66	68
7	State	65	69
	Broward	69	74
	Miami-Dade	58	61
	Hillsborough	65	70
	Orange	63	66
	Palm Beach	64	69
8	State	65	73
	Broward	68	78
	Miami-Dade	57	66
	Hillsborough	66	77
	Orange	65	74
	Palm Beach	64	75

(Table 3 continues)

(Table 3 continued)

Grade	District/State	FCAT-NRT Median National Percentile Rank	
		Reading	Mathematics
9	State	65	74
	Broward	71	78
	Miami-Dade	55	67
	Hillsborough	69	78
	Orange	64	74
	Palm Beach	66	77
10	State	67	70
	Broward	71	74
	Miami-Dade	56	60
	Hillsborough	70	74
	Orange	63	67
	Palm Beach	67	72

This memorandum can be accessed on the Student Assessment & School Performance Department Web site at <http://www.broward.k12.fl.us/studentassessment/reports.htm>. Individual school results are available on the FDOE Web site at <http://fcats.fldoe.org/>. **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
 Area Directors
 Principals
 Diane Carr, Executive Director, Core Curriculum
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