

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

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TO: School Board Members

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

VIA: Frank Till
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SUBJECT: **2006 SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY RESULTS: FLORIDA'S A+ PLAN**

Today Governor Jeb Bush and Education Commissioner John L. Winn released the 2006 school accountability results, including school grades under Florida's A+ Plan for Education and Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) designations under the Federal No Child Left Behind Act. Statewide, more schools were graded as an "A" or "B" than ever before (3 of 4 schools were graded as an "A" or "B"). Statewide, only 24 schools received an "F". The present memorandum highlights the school accountability results for Broward County Public Schools (BCPS), which are outstanding.

An examination of this year's accountability results revealed that 84% of Broward's schools earned a grade of "A" or "B." There were no "F" schools and only seven schools received a grade of "D." Highlights of the 2006 school accountability results include:

- 68% (157) of Broward County Public Schools earned ratings of "A" for the 2005-06 school year. Further, 84% (193) of Broward schools earned "A" or "B" ratings in 2006, and 97% (224) of Broward schools earned a rating of "A," "B," or "C" in 2006, reflecting that Broward schools are meeting high expectations.
- No Broward County Public Schools earned "F" rating this year.
- The Superintendent Schools made substantial advancement towards higher school grades.

Florida's A+ Plan: School Grades

School grade calculations are based on student performance as measured by the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test of the Sunshine State Standards (FCAT-SSS) in Reading, Mathematics, and Writing. The school grade formula is comprised of student performance in relation to high standards in Reading, Mathematics (Achievement Level 3 or higher), and Writing (essay score of 3.5 or higher); annual learning gains in Reading and Mathematics; and progress demonstrated by struggling readers. Examination of the 2006 school grades revealed

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that student and school achievement remained strong in Broward County. As displayed in Table 1:

- 111 elementary schools, 36 middle, 9 high schools, and 1 combination school received a grade of “A” for a total of 157 schools, up from 102 last year,
- 18 elementary, 9 middle, and 9 high schools received a grade of “B” for a total of 36 schools, down from 48 last year,
- 13 elementary, 6 middle, and 12 high schools received a grade of “C” for a total of 31 schools, down from 52 last year,
- 3 elementary and 4 high schools received a grade of “D” for a total of 7 schools, down from 19 last year, and
- No schools received a grade of “F,” down from 11 in 2005.

Table 1
School Grades by Level, 2003 to 2006

Level	Grade	2003		2004		2005		2006	
		<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Elementary	A	61	45	93	66	78	54	111	77
	B	37	27	25	18	34	24	18	12
	C	24	18	20	14	25	17	13	9
	D	9	7	2	1	5	3	3	2
	F	5	4	1	1	2	1	0	0
	Total		136		141		144		145
Middle	A	17	46	20	47	18	39	36	71
	B	11	30	9	21	11	24	9	18
	C	9	24	10	23	12	26	6	12
	D	0	0	3	7	3	7	0	0
	F	0	0	1	2	2	4	0	0
	Total		37		43		46		51
High	A	5	18	3	9	5	14	9	26
	B	3	11	7	21	3	9	9	26
	C	11	39	12	36	15	43	12	35
	D	8	29	10	30	11	31	4	12
	F	1	4	1	3	1	3	0	0
	Total		28		33		35		34
Combination	A	1	50	1	100	1	14	1	100
	B	1	50	0	0	0	0	0	0
	C	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	D	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	F	0	0	0	0	6	86	0	0
	Total		2		1		7		1
Total	A	84	41	117	54	102	44	157	68
	B	52	26	41	19	48	21	36	16
	C	44	22	42	19	52	22	31	13
	D	17	8	15	7	19	8	7	3
	F	6	3	3	1	11	5	0	0
	Total		203		218		232		231

Year-to-year progress in improving school grades is as important as the number of schools earning the highest grades of “A” and “B”. **In this regard, 48 elementary schools, 26 middle schools, and 17 high schools improved their grade by at least one letter grade from 2005 to 2006. Notably, 26 schools improved their school grade by two or more letter grades from the prior school year.**

The progress of struggling readers (measured as learning gains registered by the lowest 25% of students in reading) is one component of the school grade formula that is of particular interest. A school is designated as “making adequate progress” if more than 50% of these students made learning gains in Reading.¹ **Review of the current data revealed that 142 elementary schools, 51 middle schools, and 30 high schools made adequate progress among the struggling readers.** A school’s grade may be reduced should adequate progress not be obtained with the lowest 25% of students in Reading. This year, Sunland Park Elementary was the only Broward School to be reduced a letter grade due to the adequate progress requirement.

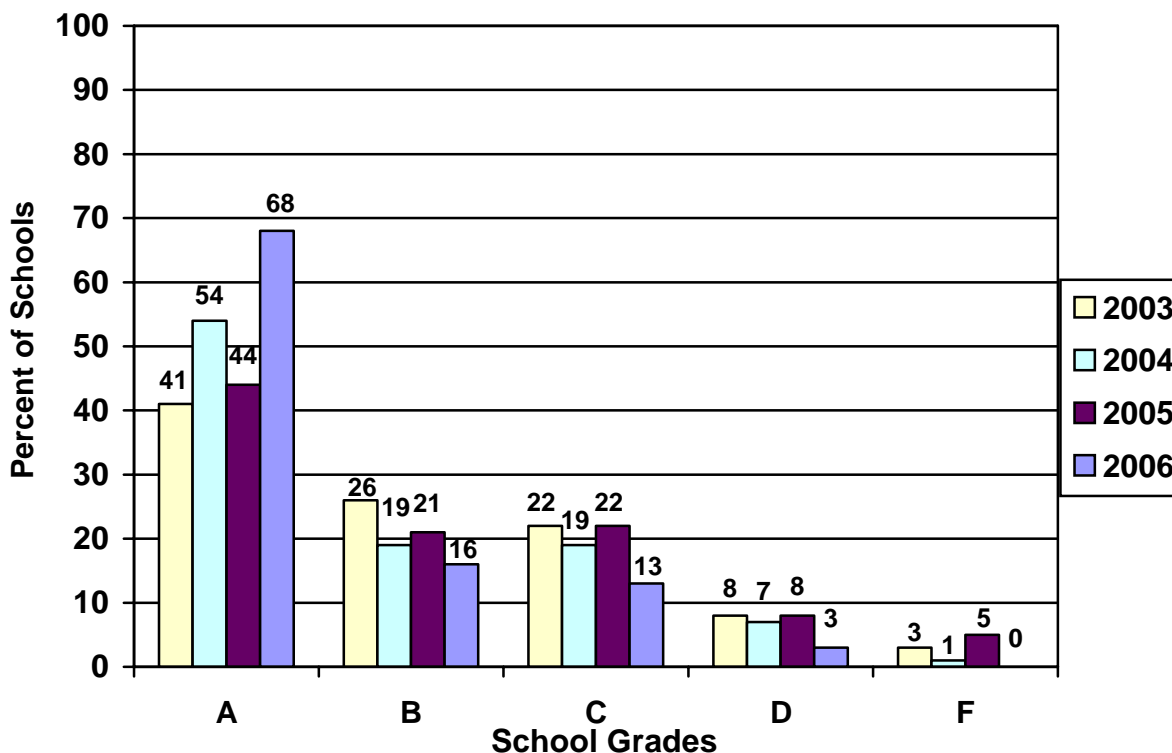


Figure 1. Distribution of school grades by year, 2003 to 2006

Figure 1 displays the distribution of school grades from 2003 to 2006. In the four-year time period shown, the proportion of Broward schools receiving an “A” or “B” grade has increased, the proportion of schools receiving a “C” grade decreased slightly, and the proportion of schools receiving a “D” or “F” grade has decreased from 2003 to 2006.

¹ Adequate progress under Florida’s A+ Plan should not be confused with “Adequate Yearly Progress” (AYP) under the No Child Left Behind Act.

Superintendent Schools. The Superintendent Schools were identified prior to the beginning of the 2005-06 school year as under/low-performing schools in need of targeted assistance. These schools were selected based on criteria pertaining to past and present academic performance, as well as longevity of the current principal at that site. In 2005-06, 32 elementary, middle, and high schools were identified for additional services. As part of the One Voice Plan, a collaborative network team directed by a principal on task assignment provided additional assistance and services to these schools throughout the school year. This assistance included: (1) focused training in the summer and fall and as needed throughout the year, (2) supplemental resources in the form of curricular materials, media, books, and software, (3) monthly school-based meetings and classroom walk throughs to examine academic performance and review individual student data, (4) instruction through classroom coaching and teacher mentoring, and (5) close monitoring of school progress by area directors and the principal on task assignment. The school grades in 2003 through 2006 are provided for Superintendent Schools in Table 2. As this table shows, these schools showed significant improvement in 2006. Specifically, 9 (47%) elementary schools, 1 (50%) middle school, and 8 (62%) high schools improved by at least one letter grade from 2004-05.

Table 2

Superintendent Schools Grades, 2003-2006

Level	School	School Grade			
		2003	2004	2005	2006
Elementary	Drew, Charles	D	C	C	A
	King, Martin Luther	C	C	C	C
	Larkdale	D	C	F	C
	Lauderdale Manors	F	D	F	I
	Markham, Robert C.	F	C	C	B
	Marshall, Thurgood	D	C	D	D
	Morrow	B	B	D	B
	North Side	D	C	C	B
	Oriole	C	B	C	C
	Park Lakes*	--	B	C	B
	Park Ridge	F	C	C	B
	Plantation	D	C	C	B
	Sanders Park	D	C	D	D
	Sunland Park	F	D	D	D
	Tedder	D	C	D	A
	Walker	D	C	C	C
Westwood Heights	D	C	B	C	
Middle	Ashe, Jr., Arthur Robert*	--	F	F	C
	Lauderhill	C	D	C	C

Table 2 continues

Table 2 Continued

Level	School	School Grade			
		2003	2004	2005	2006
High	Anderson, Boyd A.	D	D	D	C
	Blanche Ely	D	D	C	D
	Coconut Creek	D	D	D	D
	Coral Springs	C	B	D	B
	Deerfield Beach	D	D	C	C
	Dillard	D	D	D	C
	Flanagan, Charles W.	C	D	C	B
	Fort Lauderdale	C	C	D	B
	Hallandale	D	D	D	C
	Northeast	C	D	D	B
	Piper	D	C	C	C
	Plantation	C	C	D	D
	Stranahan	C	C	D	C

*No school grade issued for 2003.

Future Changes for School Grading. Based on current legislation, the procedures for determining the school grade will change in future years. Changes to the A+ Plan for the 2006-07 school year and beyond are:

- (1) The high performance level for FCAT Writing will remain at the percent of students scoring 3.5 or higher. It will not be increased to 4.0 or higher in the 2006-07 school year as previous legislation, subsequently amended, had indicated.
- (2) All students (standard curriculum students, students with disabilities, and limited English proficient students, regardless of date of entry) will continue to be included in the calculation of learning gains and the percent tested.
- (3) FCAT Science will be added as a category to the school performance grading system in the 2006-07 school year and beyond. The grading scale point requirements will be increased accordingly. Science will become the fourth “achieving high standards” category (defined by the percent of students scoring at Achievement Level 3 and higher).
- (4) Learning gains for the Lowest 25% of students in Mathematics will also be added as a category to the school performance grading system in the 2006-07 school year and beyond. Mathematics will become the second “Lowest 25% learning gains” category. Schools designated as “C” or above must make adequate progress (at least 50% of students in the Lowest 25% in Mathematics must make learning gains).
- (5) Ten school grade bonus points can be earned by high schools if 50% or more of all 11th and 12th grade students who retake the FCAT-SSS Reading and Mathematics test meet the graduation requirement.
- (6) The grading scale point requirements have been increased accordingly. The new grading point scale for 2006-07 and beyond is:

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School Grade	New (2006-07 & beyond)	Current (2005-06)
A	525-800	410-600
B	495-524	380-409
C	435-494	320-379
D	395-434	280-319
F	0-394	0-279

Because school level data concerning AYP was provided in a different format than the school grade data, a summary Broward's performance with regard to AYP is forthcoming under a separate cover.

The Florida Department of Education has issued a report card, available in both English and Spanish, which provides school grades, AYP designations, and information on options for parents. A School Efficiency Indicator (return on investment) is depicted, which relates expenditures at the school-level as compared to student performance at that school. This information can be accessed through the Florida Department of Education's Web site at <http://schoolgrades.fldoe.org/>.

This memorandum can be accessed on the Student Assessment & School Performance Web site at <http://www.broward.k12.fl.us/studentassessment/SchoolAccountability.htm>. **If you have questions, please contact me at (754) 321-2470, or Dr. Russell Clement, Director, Student Assessment & School Performance, at (754) 321-4257.**

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