

**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: James F. Notter
Interim Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: **2007 RELEASE OF FLORIDA COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT TEST
(FCAT) NORM-REFERENCED TEST (NRT) RESULTS FOR GRADES
4 THROUGH 10**

The Florida Department of Education (FDOE) released statewide, district, and school-by-school results of the 2007 Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test, Norm-Referenced Test (FCAT-NRT) for grades 4 through 10 today. **These results show mixed results for 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 evident in Reading at grades three, five, eight, and nine and in Mathematics at grades three, four, five, and seven.

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 represents 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, 2006, and 2007 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 the 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 2007 relative to 2006, with the exception of grades four, six, seven, and ten. The fourth, sixth,

seventh, and tenth grade median NPR's decreased from 2006 to 2007 (72 to 63, 69 to 67, 69 to 68, and 71 to 66 respectively).

- On FCAT-NRT Mathematics subtest, Broward's students registered increased median NPRs at grades three, four, five, and seven from 2006 to 2007. The sixth, eighth, and tenth grade median NPR's decreased from 2006 to 2007 (72 to 69, 78 to 77, and 74 to 72 respectively). There was no change noted at grade nine.

As Table 1 shows, Broward's median national percentile rank exceeded the national average (50th percentile) at all grade levels in Reading. Scores for two high schools, Charles W. Flanagan and Stranahan, have not been transmitted from the Florida Department of Education and are not included in the summary. **Although the median percentile rank scores earned by students in Broward County from 2002 to 2007 are reported, because the 2005, 2006, and 2007 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 half of the grade levels assessed (grades three, five, eight, and nine). Although Reading performance in grades four, six, seven, and ten was maintained well above the national average, declines were noted from 2006 to 2007.

While the decreases registered at grades six and seven were within the range of normal score fluctuation, the changes observed at grades four and ten were larger than expected. The decrease of nine percentile points at the fourth grade may be related to last year's spike in third grade FCAT Sunshine State Standards (FCAT-SSS) Reading scores, which corresponded to a high promotion rate of third grade students in 2006. This finding suggests that a number of students with lower reading ability may have been promoted to the fourth grade. This possibility will continue to be monitored as the FCAT-SSS results are released.

Table 1

Broward FCAT-NRT Reading Results, 2002 to 2007

Grade	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
3	59	62	62	49	61	63
4	57	59	63	54	72	63
5	54	56	57	60	70	76
6	56	56	56	57	69	67
7	59	61	61	58	69	68
8	61	62	62	71	68	71
9*	42	43	43	65	71	74
10*	53	46	46	62	71	66

*Scores for two high schools, Charles W. Flanagan and Stranahan, have not been transmitted from the Florida Department of Education and are not included in the summary.

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 grades three, four, five, and seven from 2006 to 2007. Although Mathematics performance in grades six, eight, and ten was maintained well above the national average, a decline was noted from 2006 to 2007. All declines on the Mathematics subtest were within the range of normal score fluctuation.

Table 2

Broward FCAT-NRT Mathematics Results, 2002 to 2007

Grade	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
3	67	69	71	64	69	72
4	64	66	71	64	74	79
5	66	66	68	69	77	80
6	68	69	70	65	72	69
7	70	71	72	69	74	76
8	67	68	69	71	78	77
9*	64	66	68	73	78	78
10*	69	68	69	59	74	72

*Scores for two high schools, Charles W. Flanagan and Stranahan, have not been transmitted from the Florida Department of Education and are not included in the summary.

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 displays 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 most large districts throughout the state in both Reading and Mathematics. At grade four, Palm Beach students' scores exceeded Broward scores by one percentile point in Reading (64 vs. 63), and in Mathematics (80 vs. 79). At grade nine, Hillsborough students' scores exceeded Broward scores in Reading by one percentile point (75 vs. 74).

Table 3

FCAT-NRT Reading and Mathematics Results, 2006-07

Grade	District/State	FCAT-NRT Median National Percentile Rank	
		Reading	Mathematics
3	State	62	69
	Broward	63	72
	Miami-Dade	56	64
	Hillsborough	61	70
	Orange	59	63
	Palm Beach	63	71
4	State	63	77
	Broward	63	79
	Miami-Dade	59	74
	Hillsborough	61	77
	Orange	61	72
	Palm Beach	64	80
5	State	74	75
	Broward	76	80
	Miami-Dade	70	68
	Hillsborough	72	75
	Orange	73	72
	Palm Beach	75	78

(Table 3 continues)

(Table 3 continued)

Grade	District/State	FCAT-NRT Median National Percentile Rank	
		Reading	Mathematics
6	State	66	66
	Broward	67	69
	Miami-Dade	60	58
	Hillsborough	67	68
	Orange	64	64
	Palm Beach	67	67
7	State	66	73
	Broward	68	76
	Miami-Dade	61	69
	Hillsborough	65	74
	Orange	65	72
	Palm Beach	66	75
8	State	67	74
	Broward	71	77
	Miami-Dade	58	67
	Hillsborough	69	76
	Orange	66	72
	Palm Beach	67	77
9	State	71	74
	Broward	74	78
	Miami-Dade	57	66
	Hillsborough	75	78
	Orange	73	76
	Palm Beach	72	77
10	State	60	67
	Broward	66	72
	Miami-Dade	50	57
	Hillsborough	66	72
	Orange	61	68
	Palm Beach	61	70

Individual school data are available on the FDOE Web site at <http://fcats.fldoe.org/mediapacket/2007/>. A preliminary review of these data revealed that Bayview Elementary School consistently registered the highest median percentile ranks in Reading and Mathematics for all grade levels tested. Among middle schools, Falcon Cove Middle School consistently registered this highest or nearly the highest percentiles in both subjects and all grade levels. At the high school level, McFatter Technical High School and Pompano Beach High School registered the highest scores. This memorandum can be accessed on the Student Assessment & School Performance Department Web site at <http://www.broward.k12.fl.us/studentassessment/AssessmentReleases.htm>. **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/DG

cc: Senior Management
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