

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

**JAMES F. NOTTER
INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

Telephone: (754) 321-2600

Facsimile: (754) 321-2701

Signatures on file.

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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: **RELEASE OF 2007 FLORIDA COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT TEST
(FCAT) RESULTS FOR GRADE 3**

Today, the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) released results from the 2007 Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) Sunshine State Standards (SSS) and Norm-Referenced Test (NRT) Reading and Mathematics subtests for third grade students in Broward County.¹ This memorandum summarizes these results for the District. Specifically, the grade 3 Reading and Mathematics state, district, and school-by-school summary data for both the SSS and NRT portions of the FCAT are discussed. These scores are reported as the percent of students scoring in Achievement Levels 1-5 for the SSS portion and median national percentile ranks for the NRT component of the FCAT tests.

In the forthcoming pages you will see that:

- The percentage of third grade students in Broward County scoring at Achievement Level 3 or higher on the SSS Reading test had previously increased steadily from 62% in 2002 to 75% in 2006. However, in 2007, the rate decreased by seven percentage points compared to 2006. A continued increase was registered in Mathematics, where the percent of third grade students in Broward County scoring at Achievement Level 3 or higher has increased from 66% in 2002 to 78% in 2007.
- The proportion of grade 3 students scoring at Achievement Level 1 in Reading which had decreased from 23% in 2002 to 13% in 2006, increased by six percentage points in 2007. Therefore, the number of third grade students not meeting FCAT promotion criteria increased from 13% (2,775) in 2006 to 19% (3,680) in 2007.

¹ The results for two schools, North Fork Elementary and West Hollywood Elementary were not transmitted from the Florida Department of Education with the district data. FDOE staff are working to resolve this issue.

- The percentage of third grade students scoring at Achievement Level 3 or higher on the SSS Reading subtest decreased by seven percentage points from the previous year.
- At least 82% of Broward third grade students are eligible for promotion to the fourth grade, based solely upon their performance on the SSS Reading subtest.
- In examining the Norm-Referenced Test (NRT) data, Broward's median score was slightly above the state in Reading (State 62, BCPS 63), and well above the state in Mathematics (State 69, BCPS 72).

Grade 3 Reading and Mathematics Results

Table 1 shows the results from the FCAT SSS and NRT Reading subtest for Broward's third grade students over the past six years. The rate of students performing at Achievement Level 2 or higher in Reading decreased by five percentage points in 2007 (87% to 82%) as compared to the previous year, and the proportion of students performing at Achievement Level 3 or higher in Reading decreased by seven percentage points this year (from 75% to 68%). The percentage of third grade students performing within Achievement Level 1 registered a six percentage point increase from 2006 to 2007 (from 13% to 19%). On the NRT portion of the FCAT this year, Broward students increased from the 61st percentile to the 63rd. Both Florida and Broward County exceeded the national average (50th percentile).

Table 1

Broward Third Grade Student Performance in FCAT Reading

School Year	FCAT SSS Achievement Levels*			FCAT NRT**
	% in Achievement Level 1	% in Achievement Level 2 or Higher	% in Achievement Level 3 or Higher	Median National Percentile Rank
2002	23% (4,686)	77% (15,687)	62% (12,631)	59
2003	23% (4,739)	77% (15,866)	63% (12,981)	62
2004	21% (4,666)	78% (17,330)	65% (14,442)	62
2005	20% (4,208)	80% (16,831)	67% (14,096)	49
2006	13% (2,775)	87% (18,571)	75% (16,010)	61
2007	19% (3,680)	82% (15,880)	68% (13,169)	63

*Due to rounding procedures, these percentages may sum to slightly more or less than 100%.

**2005, 2006, & 2007 data are based on the new FCAT NRT (SAT-10) and should not be directly compared to 2004 and earlier data (SAT-9)

Table 2 shows the results from the FCAT SSS Mathematics subtest for Broward's third grade students over the past six years. The percent of students who scored at Achievement Level 3 or higher has increased by 12 percentage points since 2002, including a gain of 4% from 2005 (74%) to 2007 (78%). It can be seen that as the number of students in Achievement Level 1 decreases, there are corresponding increases in students performing at higher levels. On the Mathematics portion of the FCAT NRT, Broward students scored at a median National Percentile Rank of 72, from the 69th percentile in 2006 and well above the national average percentile rank of 50.

Table 2

Broward Third Grade Student Performance in FCAT Mathematics

School Year	FCAT SSS Achievement Levels*			FCAT NRT**
	% in Achievement Level 1	% in Achievement Level 2 or Higher	% in Achievement Level 3 or Higher	Median National Percentile Rank
2002	17% (3,462)	84% (17,107)	66% (13,441)	67
2003	17% (3,506)	83% (17,115)	66% (13,610)	69
2004	15% (3,337)	85% (18,910)	68% (15,128)	71
2005	13% (2,737)	88% (18,524)	74% (15,577)	64
2006	10% (2,136)	91% (19,441)	77% (16,450)	69
2007	9% (1,742)	91% (17,615)	78% (15,098)	72

*Due to rounding procedures, these percentages may sum to slightly more or less than 100%.

**2005, 2006, & 2007 data are based on the new FCAT NRT (SAT-10) and should not be directly compared to 2004 and earlier data (SAT-9)

Comparison to Statewide Results and Other Large Districts in Florida

The results released by FDOE today reflect that third grade students in Broward County continue to demonstrate gains in Mathematics on the SSS version of FCAT. However, third grade student registered a decline in Reading. In addition, these results indicate that Broward County students continue to perform in line with statewide averages and to earn scores that meet or exceed performance of students in other large districts throughout the state.

Table 3 below presents the proportions of third grade students scoring in each Achievement Level in Reading for Broward, Florida as a whole, and four of the largest schools districts in the state (Miami-Dade, Orange, Palm Beach, and Hillsborough). The proportion of third grade students scoring at Achievement Level 3 or higher in Reading in Broward County (68%) was slightly below the statewide rate (69%) and the rate registered by Palm Beach County students (69%). Broward's student performance exceeded that of students in Miami-Dade, Orange, and Hillsborough Counties. Table 3 also shows that the proportion of third grade students in Broward scoring at Achievement Level 1 in Reading is similar to Florida and Palm Beach County, but fewer than Miami-Dade, Orange, and Hillsborough Counties. With regard to the FCAT NRT Reading data, Table 3 reflects that Broward students are scoring at a median national percentile rank slightly above the statewide performance. Broward students registered performance that equaled or exceeded the performance in the four large districts (Miami-Dade, Orange, Palm Beach, and Hillsborough Counties).

Table 3

*FCAT SSS Reading Results (Grade 3) By Achievement Level**

District/State	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	% Scoring Level 3 or Above	NRT Median National Percentile Rank
State	19%	13%	33%	28%	8%	69%	62
Broward	19%	13%	33%	28%	8%	68%	63
Miami-Dade	24%	14%	32%	25%	6%	63%	56
Orange	22%	13%	32%	26%	7%	65%	59
Palm Beach	19%	12%	32%	29%	8%	69%	63
Hillsborough	20%	13%	31%	27%	8%	67%	61

*Due to rounding, percent totals may sum to slightly more or less than 100%

Table 4 below presents the proportions of third grade students scoring in each Achievement Level in Mathematics for Broward, Florida as a whole, and four of the large comparison districts. The proportion of third grade students scoring at Achievement Level 3 or higher in Mathematics in Broward County exceeded the state average and all four of the largest districts in Florida. Table 4 also shows that fewer third grade students in Broward scored at Achievement Level 1 in Mathematics than the state and all four of the largest districts in Florida. In general, Broward third grade students outperformed their counterparts in other large districts in Mathematics. Similar results were registered on the FCAT NRT Mathematics assessment, where Broward students scored at a median national percentile rank (72) that is above the state, as well as above the median score earned by students in Miami-Dade, Orange, Palm Beach, and Hillsborough Counties.

Table 4

*FCAT SSS Mathematics Results (Grade 3) By Achievement Level**

District/State	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	% Scoring Level 3 or Above	NRT Median National Percentile Rank
State	12%	14%	33%	28%	13%	74%	69
Broward	9%	13%	32%	29%	17%	78%	72
Miami-Dade	14%	16%	33%	26%	11%	70%	64
Orange	18%	15%	30%	25%	12%	67%	63
Palm Beach	11%	13%	32%	29%	14%	76%	71
Hillsborough	13%	15%	31%	27%	14%	72%	70

Due to rounding, percent totals may sum to slightly more or less than 100%

School Level Results

A detailed list of performance by school is attached to this memorandum. An examination of that list revealed that the reading proficiency rate at five schools exceeded 90%. These schools are Bayview (96%), Riverglades (95%), Virginia S. Young (92%), Gator Run (92%), and Chancellor Charter at Weston (91%). In addition, the mathematics proficiency rate exceeded 95% at five schools: Bayview (97%), Gator Run (96%), Chancellor Charter at Weston (96%), Indian Trace (95%), and Manatee Bay (95%).

Review of the data for the Superintendent's schools revealed that none of those schools improved the percent of students in Achievement Level 3 or higher in Reading. However, six of the 19 schools (32%) improved the percent of students scoring in Achievement Level 3 or higher in Mathematics.

Promotion to Grade 4

The Grade 3 FCAT Reading tests are also used as criteria for promotion into the fourth grade. According to Florida Statute 1008.25 (5) (b), third grade students are eligible for promotion by either scoring at Achievement Level 2 or above on the SSS Reading subtest or demonstrating an exemption from this criterion through good cause. Among the available exemption methods for demonstrating readiness for promotion into the fourth grade is scoring proficiently on the Reading subtest on the Norm Referenced portion of the FCAT. The FDOE has established a cut score of the 45th percentile for grade 3 promotion. Table 1 indicates that 82% of students in Broward County satisfied the promotion criterion by scoring at Achievement Level 2 or higher on the SSS Reading portion of the FCAT. Conversely, these results lead to the conclusion that approximately 18% of Broward third graders (approximately 3,680 students) are at risk for not being eligible for promotion to the fourth grade solely based on their performance on the SSS Reading test. However, these students may have demonstrated readiness for promotion via the Reading portion of the FCAT NRT. Individual student NRT scores are expected to be available to schools shortly. Schools can then determine which third grade students have met the promotion criteria via the FCAT NRT.

For those students who did not demonstrate readiness for promotion on either the SSS or NRT portion of the FCAT Reading test, there will be additional opportunities for promotion through alternative methods:

- For those third grade students who still did not demonstrate readiness for promotion with the FCAT SSS or FCAT NRT, a Portfolio reading assessment will be conducted prior to the end of the 2006-07 school year.
- Students who do not meet the promotion criteria via the Portfolio assessment prior to the end of the 2006-07 school year will be eligible to attend Summer Reading Camp. The Reading Comprehension subtest of the Stanford Achievement Test, Tenth Edition (SAT-10) will be administered following the third grade summer reading camp. Scoring at

or above the 45th percentile on the SAT-10 will satisfy requirements for promotion to the fourth grade.

Further information regarding promotion and retention issues will be forthcoming from the Core Curriculum Department.

School Accountability

The FCAT results released by the FDOE today are not the same data that will be used to determine school grades under the A+ Plan or Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) under No Child Left Behind (NCLB). Instead, these results are for all third grade students who participated in the Spring 2007 administration of the FCAT. Only those scores for specific eligible students as defined by each accountability system will be included in the calculation of school grades under the A+ Plan and AYP under NCLB. For example, students included in the school-by-school data released today may have only been enrolled at a school for a short period of time, while students must be enrolled for the full academic year in order to be included in the data calculations for school grades and AYP.

This memorandum and a summary of school-by-school performance data, can be accessed on the Student Assessment & School Performance website at <http://www.broward.k12.fl.us/studentassessment/AssessmentReleases.htm>. On Friday, May 4, individual student reports will be available on the FCAT Parent Network website at www.fcatparentnetwork.com. **If you have any questions regarding this release, please feel free to contact me at (754) 321-2470 or Dr. Russell Clement, Director, Student Assessment & School Performance at 754-321-4257.**

JFN/KB/RC

cc: Senior Management
Area Directors
Principals
Diane Carr, Executive, Director, Core Curriculum
Frank Vodolo, Executive Director, Educational Programs
PTA
DAC