

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

JAMES F. NOTTER  
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Telephone: (754) 321-2600

Facsimile: (754) 321-2701

*Signatures on file.*

~~June 29, 2007~~ Revised July 27, 2007

TO: School Board Members

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

VIA: James F. Notter  
Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: **2006-07 SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY RESULTS: FLORIDA'S A++  
PLAN AND NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND (NCLB)**

Today Governor Charlie Crist and Acting Education Commissioner Jeanine Blomberg released the 2006-07 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. The school grading formula for 2006-07 has changed significantly from 2005-06. Although comparisons to previous years are made, the school performance grading formula is new and different for the 2006-07 school year. Two new components have been added: (1) Science has become the fourth "achieving high standards" category (defined by the percent of students scoring at Achievement Level 3 and higher) and (2) learning gains for the Lowest 25% of students in Mathematics has been added, becoming the second "lowest 25% learning gains" category. Schools must make adequate progress (at least 50% of students in the Lowest 25% in both Reading and Mathematics must make learning gains) for an "A" designation. Any school with sufficient points for a "B" or "C" grade may be reduced a letter grade if adequate progress is not made for two consecutive years. Additionally, ten school grade bonus points can be earned by high schools if 50% or more of all 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students who retake the FCAT-SSS Reading and Mathematics test meet the graduation requirement. The grading scale point requirements have been increased accordingly. The new grading point scale for 2006-07 and beyond is:

| School Grade | New (2006-07 & beyond) | Previous (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              |

These new components "raised the bar" in school accountability for 2006-07. During this morning's conference call with the Florida Department of Education (FDOE), Acting Education

## **2007 SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY RESULTS**

June 29, 2007

Page 2 of 9

Commissioner Jeanine Blomberg stated that every time the bar is raised there is an increase in the number of “D” and “F” schools.

During the 2006-07 FCAT scoring and reporting process, an anomaly was discovered with regard to the 2005-06 third grade FCAT such that those scores were inflated relative to actual student performance. On June 19, 2007 the State Board of Education voted that the inflated scores on Florida’s FCAT-SSS Reading subtest from 2005-06 largely be excluded from the calculation of school grades for 2006-07. The calculation of “learning gains” for reading from one year to the next would have been affected by the artificially high 2005-06 third grade reading scores. The Board unanimously approved a one-year change to its school performance grade calculations, eliminating third grade reading results from the scoring in most cases. Scores for fourth grade students will not count in determining whether a school made learning gains, unless including them would raise the school’s grade. The present memorandum highlights the school accountability results for Broward County Public Schools (BCPS).

An examination of this year’s accountability results revealed that 68% of Broward’s schools earned a grade of “A” or “B” and 90% of schools earned a grade of “A,” “B,” or “C.” Highlights of the 2006-07 school accountability results include:

- 52% (121) of Broward County Public Schools earned ratings of “A” for the 2006-07 school year. Further, 68% (158) of Broward schools earned “A” or “B” ratings in 2006-07, and 90% (211) of Broward schools earned a rating of “A,” “B,” or “C” in 2006-07.
- Six Broward County Schools and three charter schools received an “F” rating this year.
- Three “F” schools have received two or more “Fs” within the past four years. Students attending these schools are eligible for opportunity scholarships. These schools are: Larkdale Elementary, Arthur Robert Ashe, Jr. Middle, and Smart School Institute of Technology High.
- Of the 262 public schools in Broward County with reported AYP data, 113 schools (43%) met AYP in 2006-07. A total of 149 Broward schools (57%) did not meet AYP in 2006-07.
- The FDOE has designated four elementary schools with an “I.” The FCAT administration at one school, Hollywood Hills Elementary, is presently under review by the FDOE. The FDOE has indicated that remaining three schools’ third grade FCAT scores (Hallandale Elementary, North Fork Elementary, and West Hollywood Elementary) were reported late resulting a low participation rate. The District will formally appeal these 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, Science, and Writing. The school grade formula is comprised of student performance in relation to high standards in Reading, Mathematics, Science (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 students struggling in Reading and/or Mathematics students. Examination of Table 1 revealed that:

## 2007 SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY RESULTS

June 29, 2007

Page 3 of 9

- 95 elementary schools, 20 middle schools, 5 high schools, and 1 combination (schools that serve grades at more than one school level; elementary, middle, and/or high) school received a grade of “A” for a total of 121 schools, down from 157 last year,
- 24 elementary, 9 middle, and 4 high schools received a grade of “B” for a total of 37 schools, up from 36 last year,
- 22 elementary, 15 middle, and 16 high schools received a grade of “C” for a total of 53 schools, up from 31 last year,
- 3 elementary, 6 middle, and 5 high schools received a grade of “D” for a total of 14 schools, up from 7 last year,
- 6 Broward County schools and 3 charter schools received a grade of “F.”

Table 1

*School Grades by Level, 2003-04 to 2006-07*

| Level       | Grade | 2003-04  |     | 2004-05  |     | 2005-06  |     | 2006-07  |     |
|-------------|-------|----------|-----|----------|-----|----------|-----|----------|-----|
|             |       | <i>n</i> | %   | <i>n</i> | %   | <i>n</i> | %   | <i>n</i> | %   |
| Elementary  | A     | 93       | 66  | 78       | 54  | 111      | 77  | 95       | 65  |
|             | B     | 25       | 18  | 34       | 24  | 18       | 12  | 24       | 16  |
|             | C     | 20       | 14  | 25       | 17  | 13       | 9   | 22       | 15  |
|             | D     | 2        | 1   | 5        | 3   | 3        | 2   | 3        | 2   |
|             | F     | 1        | 1   | 2        | 1   | 0        | 0   | 2        | 1   |
|             | Total |          | 141 |          | 144 |          | 145 |          | 146 |
| Middle      | A     | 20       | 47  | 18       | 39  | 36       | 71  | 20       | 38  |
|             | B     | 9        | 21  | 11       | 24  | 9        | 18  | 9        | 17  |
|             | C     | 10       | 23  | 12       | 26  | 6        | 12  | 15       | 28  |
|             | D     | 3        | 7   | 3        | 7   | 0        | 0   | 6        | 11  |
|             | F     | 1        | 2   | 2        | 4   | 0        | 0   | 3        | 6   |
|             | Total |          | 43  |          | 46  |          | 51  |          | 53  |
| High        | A     | 3        | 9   | 5        | 14  | 9        | 26  | 5        | 15  |
|             | B     | 7        | 21  | 3        | 9   | 9        | 26  | 4        | 12  |
|             | C     | 12       | 36  | 15       | 43  | 13       | 37  | 16       | 47  |
|             | D     | 10       | 30  | 11       | 31  | 4        | 12  | 5        | 15  |
|             | F     | 1        | 3   | 1        | 3   | 0        | 0   | 4        | 12  |
|             | Total |          | 33  |          | 35  |          | 35  |          | 34  |
| Combination | A     | 1        | 100 | 1        | 14  | 1        | 100 | 1        | 100 |
|             | B     | 0        | 0   | 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   | 6        | 86  | 0        | 0   | 0        | 0   |
|             | Total |          | 1   |          | 7   |          | 1   |          | 1   |
| Total       | A     | 117      | 54  | 102      | 44  | 157      | 68  | 121      | 52  |
|             | B     | 41       | 19  | 48       | 21  | 36       | 16  | 37       | 16  |
|             | C     | 42       | 19  | 52       | 22  | 32       | 14  | 53       | 23  |
|             | D     | 15       | 7   | 19       | 8   | 7        | 3   | 14       | 6   |
|             | F     | 3        | 1   | 11       | 5   | 0        | 0   | 9        | 4   |
|             | Total |          | 218 |          | 232 |          | 232 |          | 234 |

## 2007 SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY RESULTS

June 29, 2007

Page 4 of 9

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, 10 elementary schools, one middle school, and one high school improved their grade by at least one letter grade from 2005-06 to 2006-07. In addition, three 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) and struggling mathematics students (measured as learning gains registered by the lowest 25% of students in mathematics) are two additional components of the school grade formula that are of particular interest. A school is designated as “making adequate progress” if 50% or more of these students made learning gains in both Reading and Mathematics.<sup>1</sup> **Review of the current data revealed that 135 elementary schools, 49 middle schools, and 10 high schools made adequate progress among the struggling readers and students in mathematics.**

New to the school grade calculation is a provision for high schools to earn 10 bonus points if at least 50% of their 11th and 12th grade retake students meet the score required to earn the high school diploma. Two Broward County high schools (Cooper City High and Nova High) and two charter schools (City of Coral Springs Charter and City of Pembroke Pines Charter) earned these bonus points this year.

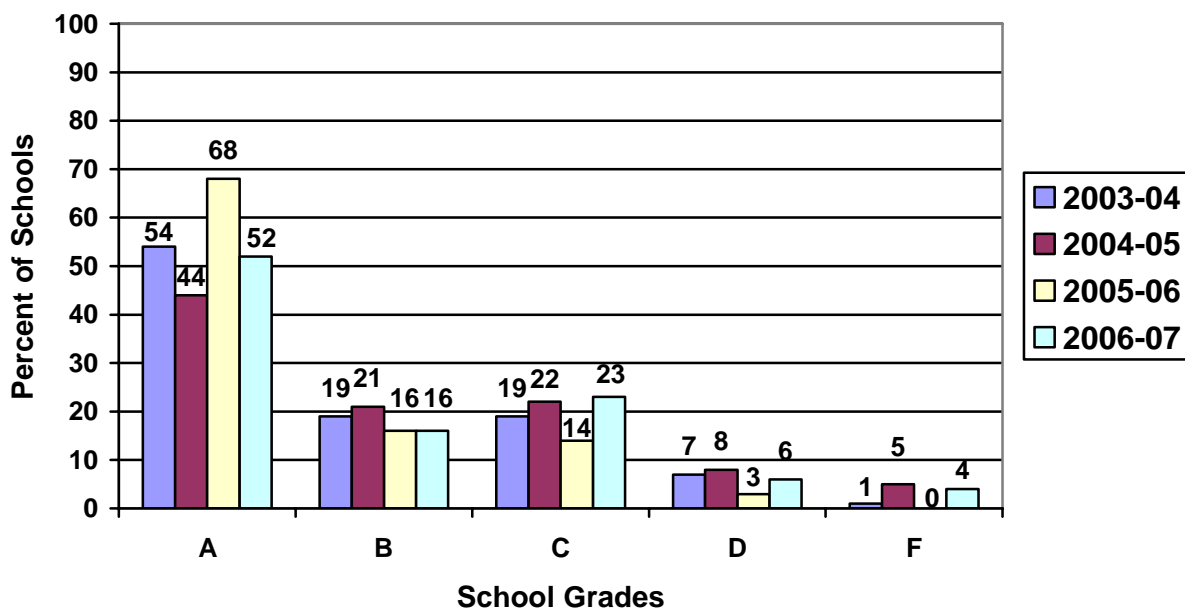


Figure 1. Distribution of school grades by year, 2003-04 to 2006-07

Figure 1 displays the distribution of school grades from 2003-04 to 2006-07. Year-to-year variability is evident across the four years displayed and is particularly pronounced in the proportion of schools receiving an “A.” However, the distribution of 2006-07 grades is similar to the distribution observed in 2003-04.

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

## 2007 SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY RESULTS

June 29, 2007

Page 5 of 9

Table 2 displays school grades distributions for the five largest school districts in Florida. Examination of these data revealed that all of the large districts registered an increase in the number of “F” schools due to the increased rigor of the grading criteria. The largest increase in the number of failing schools was registered at Miami-Dade County with an increase of 21 schools graded as “F,” equaling 8% of their total number of schools, compared to an increase of 9 schools (4%) in Broward County.

Table 2

*School Grade Distributions for the Five Large Florida School Districts, 2005-06 to 2006-07*

| District     | Grade | 2005-06 |         | 2006-07 |         |
|--------------|-------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
|              |       | Number  | Percent | Number  | Percent |
| Broward      | A     | 157     | 68      | 121     | 52      |
|              | B     | 36      | 16      | 37      | 16      |
|              | C     | 32      | 14      | 53      | 23      |
|              | D     | 7       | 3       | 14      | 6       |
|              | F     | 0       | 0       | 9       | 4       |
| Hillsborough | A     | 93      | 45      | 106     | 50      |
|              | B     | 59      | 29      | 37      | 17      |
|              | C     | 44      | 21      | 48      | 23      |
|              | D     | 9       | 4       | 16      | 8       |
|              | F     | 0       | 0       | 5       | 2       |
| Miami-Dade   | A     | 179     | 54      | 141     | 42      |
|              | B     | 61      | 19      | 43      | 13      |
|              | C     | 69      | 21      | 90      | 27      |
|              | D     | 15      | 5       | 34      | 10      |
|              | F     | 5       | 2       | 26      | 8       |
| Orange       | A     | 84      | 43      | 100     | 58      |
|              | B     | 36      | 19      | 21      | 12      |
|              | C     | 38      | 20      | 33      | 19      |
|              | D     | 32      | 16      | 13      | 8       |
|              | F     | 4       | 2       | 5       | 3       |
| Palm Beach   | A     | 95      | 55      | 109     | 63      |
|              | B     | 31      | 18      | 23      | 13      |
|              | C     | 35      | 20      | 27      | 16      |
|              | D     | 11      | 6       | 10      | 6       |
|              | F     | 0       | 0       | 3       | 2       |

**Superintendent’s Schools.** The Superintendent’s Schools were identified prior to the beginning of the 2006-07 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 and student mobility. In 2006-07, 38 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

## 2007 SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY RESULTS

June 29, 2007

Page 6 of 9

throughout the year, (2) either a full time or part time curriculum coach, (3) supplemental resources in the form of curricular materials, media, books, and software, (4) monthly school-based meetings and classroom walk-throughs to examine academic performance and review individual student data, (5) instruction through classroom coaching and teacher mentoring, (6) close monitoring of school progress by area directors and the principal on task assignment, and (7) additional financial resources to support improvement initiatives. The school grades in 2003-04 through 2006-07 are provided for Superintendent Schools in Table 3. As this table shows, four schools registered improvement in 2006-07, with one school improving from a “D” to an “A.” Eleven schools maintained their school grade. However, 22 schools showed a decline in their school grade from 2005-06.

Table 3

*Superintendent Schools Grades, 2003-04 to 2006-07*

| Level       | School              | School Grade             |         |         |                |
|-------------|---------------------|--------------------------|---------|---------|----------------|
|             |                     | 2003-04                  | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | <b>2006-07</b> |
| Elementary  | Drew, Charles       | C                        | C       | A       | <b>B</b>       |
|             | King, Martin Luther | C                        | C       | C       | <b>D</b>       |
|             | Larkdale            | C                        | F       | C       | <b>F</b>       |
|             | Lauderdale Manors   | D                        | F       | I       | <b>D</b>       |
|             | Markham, Robert C.  | C                        | C       | B       | <b>C</b>       |
|             | Marshall, Thurgood  | C                        | D       | D       | <b>C</b>       |
|             | Morrow              | B                        | D       | B       | <b>C</b>       |
|             | North Side          | C                        | C       | B       | <b>B</b>       |
|             | Oriole              | B                        | C       | C       | <b>C</b>       |
|             | Park Lakes          | B                        | C       | B       | <b>C</b>       |
|             | Park Ridge          | C                        | C       | B       | <b>C</b>       |
|             | Pompano Beach       | B                        | C       | C       | <b>B</b>       |
|             | Plantation          | C                        | C       | B       | <b>B</b>       |
|             | Royal Palm          | C                        | C       | C       | <b>C</b>       |
|             | Sanders Park        | C                        | D       | D       | <b>A</b>       |
|             | Sunland Park        | D                        | D       | D       | <b>F</b>       |
|             | Tedder              | C                        | D       | A       | <b>B</b>       |
|             | Walker              | C                        | C       | C       | <b>D</b>       |
|             | Westwood Heights    | C                        | B       | C       | <b>C</b>       |
|             | Middle              | Ashe, Jr., Arthur Robert | F       | F       | C              |
| Gulfstream* |                     | ---                      | ---     | C       | <b>D</b>       |
| Lauderhill  |                     | D                        | C       | C       | <b>F</b>       |

Table 3 continues

## 2007 SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY RESULTS

June 29, 2007

Page 7 of 9

Table 3 Continued

| Level | School               | School Grade |         |         |         |
|-------|----------------------|--------------|---------|---------|---------|
|       |                      | 2003-04      | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 |
| High  | Anderson, Boyd A.    | D            | D       | C       | F       |
|       | Blanche Ely          | D            | C       | D       | D       |
|       | Coconut Creek        | D            | D       | D       | D       |
|       | Coral Springs        | B            | D       | B       | C       |
|       | Deerfield Beach      | D            | C       | C       | C       |
|       | Dillard              | D            | D       | C       | D       |
|       | Flanagan, Charles W. | D            | C       | B       | C       |
|       | Fort Lauderdale      | C            | D       | B       | C       |
|       | Hallandale           | D            | D       | C       | F       |
|       | Hollywood Hills      | C            | C       | C       | D       |
|       | McArthur             | C            | C       | C       | D       |
|       | Northeast            | D            | D       | B       | C       |
|       | Piper                | C            | C       | C       | C       |
|       | Plantation           | C            | D       | D       | C       |
|       | South Broward        | C            | C       | C       | C       |
|       | Stranahan            | C            | D       | C       | C       |

\*No school grade assigned for 2003-04, 2004-05

**Schools of Choice Opportunity Scholarships.** Three Broward schools were designated an “F” in 2003-04, 11 schools were designated an “F” in 2004-05, and no schools were designated an “F” in 2005-06. If schools receive an “F” grade for two years in a four-year period, students who ~~have been~~ are enrolled in these failing schools or are assigned to attend these schools during a school year where the failing designation was in effect are eligible to choose a higher performing public school ~~receive opportunity scholarships~~. Therefore, ~~opportunity scholarships will be available for~~ students enrolled at three of the schools designated with an “F” grade in 2006-07 (Arthur Robert Ashe Jr., Middle School, Larkdale Elementary School, and Smart School Institute of Tech/Com Charter High School) will be eligible for School Choice in 2007-08. ~~Students may take advantage of this opportunity during the 2007-08 school year.~~ (Opportunity scholarships were deemed unconstitutional by the Florida Supreme Court on January 5, 2006.)

### No Child Left Behind: Adequate Yearly Progress

The No Child Left Behind (NCLB) legislation requires that specified student subgroups (five ethnic groups, students with disabilities, students learning English, and economically disadvantaged students) in schools, districts, and the state as a whole attain adequate yearly progress (AYP) in Reading, Mathematics, and Writing. As part of planned annual increases in performance criteria for AYP, the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) raised the proficiency targets for Reading and Mathematics. The target for Reading proficiency for 2006-07 is 51% (up from 44% in 2005-06) and Mathematics proficiency is 56% (up from 50% in 2005-06). Additionally, in high school the graduation rate must continue to increase on an annual basis if it is not already deemed at or above 85%.

## 2007 SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY RESULTS

June 29, 2007

Page 8 of 9

In previous years, the FDOE had used an AYP designation of “Provisional” for those schools earning a school grade of “A” or “B” but did not fulfill requirements to meet AYP. In practice, “Provisional” schools were regarded as having the same status as schools that did not make AYP. In 2006-07, the FDOE did not use the “Provisional” designation. Therefore, a school previously identified as “Provisional” and currently identified as not meeting AYP should not be viewed as changing status.

Table 4 displays AYP designation for all Broward schools for the years 2004-05 through 2006-07. Of the 262 public schools in Broward County, 114 schools (44%) met AYP in 2006-07 (99 Elementary, 12 Middle, and 3 High schools). A total of 149 Broward schools (56%) did not meet AYP (54 Elementary, 43 Middle, 34 High, and 11 Centers). A longitudinal review of the data revealed year-to-year variability in the number of elementary, middle, and high schools making AYP.

Table 4  
*School AYP Designation, 2004-05 through 2006-07*

| Level      | Met AYP     | 2004-05  |    | 2005-06  |     | 2006-07                         |                               |
|------------|-------------|----------|----|----------|-----|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
|            |             | <i>n</i> | %  | <i>n</i> | %   | <i>n</i>                        | %                             |
| Elementary | Yes         | 103      | 69 | 107      | 70  | <del>98</del> 99 <sup>^</sup>   | <del>64</del> 65 <sup>^</sup> |
|            | No          | 24       | 16 | 16       | 11  | <del>55</del> 54 <sup>^</sup>   | <del>36</del> 35 <sup>^</sup> |
|            | Provisional | 22       | 15 | 29       | 19  |                                 |                               |
|            | Total       | 149      |    | 152      |     | 153*                            |                               |
| Middle     | Yes         | 14       | 30 | 18       | 35  | 12                              | 22                            |
|            | No          | 18       | 38 | 4        | 8   | 43                              | 78                            |
|            | Provisional | 15       | 32 | 29       | 57  |                                 |                               |
|            | Total       | 47       |    | 51       |     | 55                              |                               |
| High       | Yes         | 5        | 14 | 6        | 17  | 3                               | 8                             |
|            | No          | 26       | 72 | 17       | 47  | 34                              | 92                            |
|            | Provisional | 5        | 14 | 13       | 36  |                                 |                               |
|            | Total       | 36       |    | 36       |     | 37                              |                               |
| Center     | Yes         | 3        | 23 | 0        | 0   | 0                               | 0                             |
|            | No          | 10       | 77 | 13       | 100 | 11                              | 100                           |
|            | Provisional | 0        | 0  | 0        | 0   |                                 |                               |
|            | Total       | 13       |    | 13       |     | 11                              |                               |
| District** | Yes         | 125      | 51 | 131      | 50  | <del>113</del> 114 <sup>^</sup> | <del>43</del> 44 <sup>^</sup> |
|            | No          | 78       | 32 | 57       | 22  | <del>149</del> 148 <sup>^</sup> | <del>57</del> 56 <sup>^</sup> |
|            | Provisional | 42       | 17 | 72       | 27  |                                 |                               |
|            | Total       | 245      |    | 260*     |     | 262*                            |                               |

\*Does not include schools designated as “Incomplete.”

\*\*Multi-Level Schools and Agencies are included in the total count.

<sup>^</sup>The Florida Department of Education has notified the District that one school, Dania Beach Elementary, was incorrectly identified as not meeting AYP in the state’s initial report of AYP status.



## 2007 SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY RESULTS

June 29, 2007

Page 9 of 9

The Florida Department of Education has issued report cards for each school which provides school grades, AYP designations, supporting data, and information on options for parents. 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/AssessmentReleases.htm>. **If you have questions, please contact me at (754) 321-2470, or Dr. Russell Clement, Director of Student Assessment & School Performance, at (754) 321-4257.**

JFN/KB/RC/ML/DG:jp

cc: Executive Leadership Team  
Area Directors  
Principals  
Diane Carr, Executive Director, Core Curriculum  
Marcia Baldanza, Principal on Special Assignment, Superintendent Schools  
PTA  
DAC