

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

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September 26, 2007

TO: School Board Members

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

VIA: James F. Notter
Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: **FLORIDA 2007 NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL
PROGRESS (NAEP) GRADE 4 AND 8 RESULTS**

On September 25, 2007, Governor Charlie Crist and Jeanine Blomberg, Florida Commissioner of Education, announced the release of Florida's results on the 2007 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) for grades 4 and 8. Florida surpassed the national average in both fourth grade reading and mathematics and, for the first time, matched the national average for eighth grade reading. Florida was one of only four states with significant increases in both fourth and eighth grade reading since 2005. A complete report of 2007 NAEP results for Florida compared to the nation can be found at www.fldoe.org/asp/naep.

About NAEP

NAEP is the only nationally representative and continuing assessment of what America's students know and can do in various subject areas. Assessments are conducted periodically in mathematics, reading, science, writing, the arts, civics, economics, geography, and U.S. history.

NAEP does not provide scores for individual students or schools; instead, it offers results regarding subject-matter achievement, instructional experiences, and school environment for populations of students (e.g., fourth-graders) and groups within those populations (e.g., female students, Hispanic students). NAEP results are based on a sample of student populations of interest.

Florida Participation in NAEP Assessments

In the State of Florida, participation in NAEP is mandated by Florida Statute, Section 1008.22(2). The statute makes specific reference to NAEP's use in Florida both for national samples and for any state-by-state comparison programs, and this information is to be included in the annual report of the Commissioner of Education. It is Florida's intent to participate in the measurement of national educational goals.

NAEP is an important part of Florida's assessment program because it provides a basis for comparing knowledge and skills of Florida students with students in other states, and with the

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nation as a whole. Individual student participation in the assessment is voluntary, and parents can choose to have their child not participate, as stipulated in No Child Left Behind.

Schools are randomly selected from the Common Core of Data, a national database of schools. A state sample typically has about 200 schools at grades 4 and 8 and 50 schools at grade 12. Not all the schools in a district, school, or grade are selected to participate. Scoring and reporting take approximately six months.

Table 1

Average Grade 4 and 8 NAEP Scores, 2005 and 2007, for Florida and the Nation

Average NAEP Scores 2005 to 2007				
Florida				
Year	Grade 4		Grade 8	
	Reading	Mathematics	Reading	Mathematics
2005	219	239	256	274
2007	224	242	260	277
Nation				
Year	Grade 4		Grade 8	
	Reading	Mathematics	Reading	Mathematics
2005	217	237	260	278
2007	220	239	261	280

Results for Florida showed increases in average scores at grade 4 in both mathematics (239 vs. 242), and reading (219 to 224) from 2005 to 2007. At grade 8, increases are seen across the state for mathematics (274 vs. 277) and reading (256 vs. 260) from 2005 to 2007. As seen in the table, Florida's average grade 4 scores in reading and mathematics exceed the average of students across the nation. Although Florida's grade 8 reading and mathematics average scores are below those for students across the nation, the difference between Florida and the nation is smaller than in 2005.

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 Paul Houchens, Director, Student Assessment & School Performance, at (754) 321-4257.**

JFN/KB/PH:dg

cc: Executive Leadership Team
Area Directors
Diane Carr, Executive Director, Core Curriculum
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Principals