

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

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May 21, 2008

TO: School Board Members

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

VIA: James F. Notter  
Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: **RELEASE OF 2008 FLORIDA COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT TEST  
(FCAT) RESULTS FOR GRADE 3**

Today, the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) released results from the 2008 Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) Sunshine State Standards (SSS) and Norm-Referenced Test (NRT) Reading and Mathematics subtests for third grade students. 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 subtests and median national percentile ranks for the NRT component of the FCAT tests. In general, the data reveal a steady long-term trend in academic progress at grade 3.

A review of the assessment results indicates that:

- The percentage of third grade students in Broward County scoring at Achievement Level 3 or higher on the SSS Reading test increased by four percentage points in 2008, and by two percentage points on the SSS Mathematics test. Since 2002, the proportion of students scoring at or above Achievement Level 3 has increased from 62% to 72% on SSS Reading and from 66% to 80% on SSS Mathematics.
- The proportion of grade 3 students scoring at Achievement Level 1 in Reading decreased by three percentage points in 2008. Thus the number of third grade students not meeting FCAT-SSS promotion criteria decreased from 19% in 2007 to 16%.
- At least 84% of Broward third grade students are eligible for promotion to the fourth grade, based upon their performance on the SSS Reading subtest.
- In examining the NRT data, Broward's median score was above the state in both Reading (State 60, BCPS 61) and Mathematics (State 63, BCPS 66).

### Grade 3 Reading and Mathematics Results

Table 1 shows the results from the FCAT-SSS and NRT Reading subtest for Broward third grade students over the past seven years. The proportion of students performing at Achievement Level 2 or higher in Reading increased by two percentage points in 2008 (82% to 84%) as compared to the previous year, and the proportion of students performing at Achievement Level 3 or higher in Reading increased by four percentage points this year (from 68% to 72%). The percentage of third grade students performing within Achievement Level 1 registered a three percentage point decrease from 2007 to 2008 (from 19% to 16%). The proportion of Broward third grade students eligible for promotion based upon their SSS Reading performance has increased to 84%. In Broward the median score on the NRT portion of the FCAT decreased from the 63<sup>rd</sup> percentile to the 61<sup>st</sup>. The same decrease was evident in the state median but both Florida and Broward County exceeded the national average (50<sup>th</sup> 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%	77%	62%	59
2003	23%	77%	63%	62
2004	21%	78%	65%	62
2005	20%	80%	67%	49
2006***	13%	87%	75%	61
2007	19%	82%	68%	63
2008	16%	84%	72%	61

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

\*\*\*The FCAT-NRT transitioned from the SAT-9 to SAT-10 in 2005.

\*\*\*There was a scoring anomaly in the 2006 FCAT-SSS Grade 3 Reading Results.

Table 2 shows the results from the FCAT-SSS Mathematics subtest for Broward's third grade students over the past seven years. The percent of students who scored at Achievement Level 3 or higher has increased by 14 percentage points since 2002, including a gain of 2% from 2007 (78%) to 2008 (80%). On the Mathematics portion of the FCAT-NRT, Broward students scored at a median percentile of 66, well above the national average percentile rank of 50, but a 6 percentage point decrease compared to 2007. The same decrease was evident in the state median.

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%	84%	66%	67
2003	17%	83%	66%	69
2004	15%	85%	68%	71
2005	13%	88%	74%	64
2006	10%	91%	77%	69
2007	9%	91%	78%	72
2008	8%	92%	80%	66

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

\*\*The FCAT-NRT transitioned from the SAT-9 to SAT-10 in 2005.

### **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 steady long-term academic progress Reading and Mathematics on the SSS version of FCAT. In addition, these results indicate that Broward County students continue to perform in line with statewide averages and earn scores that exceed performance of students in other large districts throughout the state.

Table 3 (page four) presents the proportions of third grade students scoring in each Achievement Level in Reading for Broward, Florida, 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 (72%) was equal to the statewide rate (72%). However, Broward's student performance exceeded that of students in the other four large districts. Table 3 also shows that the proportion of third grade students in Broward scoring at Achievement Level 1 in Reading is similar to Florida, but fewer than in the other four large districts. With regard to the FCAT-NRT Reading data, Table 3 reflects that Broward students scored at a median percentile rank slightly above the statewide performance. Broward students registered performance that exceeded the performance in the four large districts.

Table 3

*FCAT-SSS Reading Results (Grade 3) By Achievement Level\* and NRT Median*

District/State	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	% Scoring Level 3 or Above	NRT Median National Percentile Rank
State	16%	12%	34%	31%	7%	72%	60
<b>Broward</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>72%</b>	<b>61</b>
Miami-Dade	21%	13%	34%	27%	6%	67%	56
Orange	19%	13%	33%	28%	7%	69%	58
Palm Beach	17%	12%	34%	29%	8%	71%	60
Hillsborough	17%	12%	33%	30%	7%	71%	59

\*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, and the four other large 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 (66) that is above the state, as well as above the median score earned by students in the four other large districts.

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	10%	13%	33%	29%	14%	76%	63
<b>Broward</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>66</b>
Miami-Dade	11%	14%	33%	28%	13%	75%	58
Orange	15%	15%	30%	25%	14%	70%	59
Palm Beach	10%	14%	31%	29%	16%	76%	63
Hillsborough	11%	14%	32%	28%	14%	74%	64

\*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 available online the Student Assessment Web site. An examination of the list revealed that the reading proficiency rate at eight schools exceeded 90%. These schools are Floranada (91%), Central Park (94%), Riverglades (92%), Indian Trace (91%), Virginia S. Young (91%), Pembroke Pines Charter Elementary (91%), Imagine Charter at Weston (93%), and Broward Community Charter (95%). In addition, the mathematics proficiency rate exceeded 95% at seven schools: Riverglades (97%), Gator Run (97%), Manatee Bay (98%), Charter School of Excellence (96%), Pembroke Pines Charter Elementary (98%), Chancellor Charter Weston (97%), and Broward Community Charter (100%).

## **Promotion to Grade 4**

The Grade 3 FCAT Reading tests are 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 is scoring proficiently on the Reading subtest of the FCAT-NRT. The FDOE has established a cut score of the 45<sup>th</sup> percentile for grade 3 promotion. Table 1 indicates that 84% 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 16% of Broward third graders (approximately 3,131 students) are at risk of being ineligible for promotion to the fourth grade based on their performance on the SSS Reading test. However, these students may demonstrate readiness for promotion via the Reading portion of the FCAT-NRT.

For those students who do not demonstrate readiness for promotion on either the SSS or NRT portion of the FCAT Reading, there are several opportunities for promotion through alternative methods:

- A Portfolio reading assessment will be conducted prior to the end of the 2007-08 school year.
- Students who do not meet the promotion criteria via the Portfolio assessment or FCAT prior to the end of the 2007-08 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 45<sup>th</sup> percentile on the SAT-10 will satisfy requirements for promotion to the fourth grade.

## **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 2008 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

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of time, while students must be enrolled during the October and February enrollment counts in order to be included in the data calculations for school grades and AYP.

This memorandum and the school-by-school results can be accessed online at <http://www.broward.k12.fl.us/studentassessment/AssessmentReleases.htm>. Individual student reports will be available on the FCAT Parent Network Web site at [www.fcaptoparentnetwork.com](http://www.fcaptoparentnetwork.com) on May 23<sup>rd</sup>. **If you have any questions regarding this release, please feel free to contact me at (754) 321-2470 or Paul Houchens, Director, Student Assessment & School Performance at (754) 321-4257.**

JFN/KAB/PH

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