

**THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA
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June 10, 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
SUNSHINE STATE STANDARDS (FCAT-SSS) FOR GRADES 4-10**

The Florida Department of Education (FDOE) today released statewide, district, and school-by-school results of the 2008 Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test—Sunshine State Standards (FCAT-SSS) in Reading and Mathematics for grades 4 through 10 and Science in grades 5, 8, and 11. This memorandum summarizes these results for Broward County Public Schools (BCPS).

The results released today include all students who participated in the 2008 FCAT administration and therefore do not represent the data that will be used to determine school grades under Florida's A++ Plan or Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) under the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act. Only scores from eligible students will be included in school accountability calculations. Today's results also do not include students who participated in alternate assessments in place of the FCAT. The results from students who participated in the alternate assessments will be included in AYP calculations.

The results of the FCAT-SSS are reported via several types of scores. Student performance results are presented in terms of mean scale scores (ranging from 100 to 500 at each grade level), mean developmental scale scores (DSS; ranging from 86 to 3008 across all grade levels), and the proportion of students scoring at each achievement level, 1 through 5. Students scoring at Achievement Level 3 or higher are considered to be performing on or above grade level.

In the following summary you will find that:

- Increases in the percent of students scoring at Achievement Level 3 or higher on the SSS Reading subtest occurred in every grade level except grade five, when compared to the 2007 school year.
- In Mathematics, Broward students performed better than students across the state at **all grade levels**. Increases in the percent of students scoring at Achievement Level 3 or higher on the SSS test were observed in every grade except grade 5 (one point decline) and grade 7 (no change), when compared to the 2007 school year.
- At grade 10, passing rates among Broward students increased from the previous year in Reading (from 53% to 57%) and Mathematics (from 80% to 82%).

- Science results were mixed in Broward County. In grade 5, the mean scale score remained stable at 308 and the percent of students scoring at Achievement Level 3 or higher declined one point, from 43% to 42%. The mean scale score in grade 8 increased by 7 (297 to 304) and was accompanied by a corresponding increase of students scoring at or above Achievement Level 3 (36% to 39%). In grade 11 there was no change in the mean scale score, and the proportion of students scoring at or above Achievement Level 3 increased by one point (34% to 35%).

Broward FCAT Results in Reading and Mathematics

In general, the Reading and Mathematics FCAT-SSS results reflect similar trends in upward performance to the FCAT-NRT. Table 1 summarizes BCPS student performance on the Reading subtest from 2006 to 2008. Examination of Table 1 reveals that the largest gains on the Reading portion of the FCAT-SSS occurred at grades 6, 8, and 9, with increases of 5 percentage points in the proportion of students scoring at Achievement Level 3 or higher from 2007 to 2008. Gains in Reading were demonstrated at every grade level except grade 5. When the FCAT-SSS Reading results are compared over the period shown in Table 1, increases in student achievement are noted at grades 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10. Performance decreased slightly in grades 3 and 5 during the time period examined, although it must be noted that a scoring anomaly was discovered that inflated grade 3 Reading scores in 2006.

Table 2 presents the results of Broward student performance on the Mathematics subtest of the FCAT-SSS from 2006 to 2008. As Table 2 shows, the largest gains in SSS Mathematics occurred at grade 9, where a 4 percentage point increase in the proportion of students scoring at Achievement Level 3 or higher was noted compared to 2007. Gains from the previous year were also observed in grades 3, 4, 6, 8, and 10 as compared to 2007. When the FCAT-SSS Mathematics results are compared over the three-year period shown in the table, increases in student achievement are noted at grades 3, 5, 7, 8, 9, and 10 in the period from 2006 to 2008. Over this three-year period, overall student achievement decreased slightly in grade 4 (from 77% to 76%) and remained stable in grade 6 (at 59%).

Table 1

Broward FCAT Reading Results, 2006 to 2008

Grade	Year	Mean Scale Score	Percent of Students in Each Achievement Level					
			1	2	3	4	5	3 or Higher
3	2006	314	13	12	38	33	5	75
	2007	310	19	13	33	28	8	68
	2008	312	16	12	35	30	7	72
4	2006	318	16	15	34	27	8	69
	2007	316	17	15	34	27	7	68
	2008	319	17	14	32	29	8	70
5	2006	306	17	16	34	26	7	68
	2007	311	13	14	36	30	7	73
	2008	305	17	17	34	26	6	66

(table continues)

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Table 1 (continued).

Grade	Year	Mean Scale Score	Percent of Students in Each Achievement Level					3 or Higher
			1	2	3	4	5	
6	2006	315	17	17	31	27	8	66
	2007	308	19	19	33	22	7	62
	2008	317	16	17	32	25	10	67
7	2006	315	16	19	35	23	7	64
	2007	318	15	19	35	22	9	66
	2008	319	15	18	34	24	8	67
8	2006	305	20	29	34	15	2	51
	2007	306	20	29	33	15	2	51
	2008	314	16	28	35	18	3	56
9	2006	308	28	31	26	11	5	42
	2007	309	27	31	25	12	5	42
	2008	314	25	28	27	14	6	47
10	2006	302	36	30	17	7	9	34
	2007	302	38	28	17	7	10	34
	2008	307	34	28	18	8	12	38

Table 2

Broward FCAT Mathematics Results, 2006 to 2008

Grade	Year	Mean Scale Score	Percent of Students in Each Achievement Level					3 or Higher
			1	2	3	4	5	
3	2006	334	10	14	33	30	14	77
	2007	337	9	13	32	29	17	78
	2008	341	8	12	33	31	17	80
4	2006	334	9	14	35	29	13	77
	2007	329	9	16	37	27	11	75
	2008	332	10	15	36	27	13	76
5	2006	339	12	23	26	28	11	65
	2007	343	10	22	27	29	12	68
	2008	341	12	21	26	29	12	67
6	2006	322	22	19	28	20	11	59
	2007	317	24	20	27	18	10	56
	2008	324	21	20	28	20	12	59
7	2006	318	18	19	30	21	11	63
	2007	320	16	19	31	22	11	65
	2008	323	15	19	32	21	12	65
8	2006	322	17	19	32	17	15	64
	2007	323	16	18	32	18	16	66
	2008	328	13	18	34	20	16	69
9	2006	308	16	21	30	21	12	63
	2007	308	15	21	30	23	11	64
	2008	313	13	19	32	25	11	68
10	2006	327	14	19	26	32	10	67
	2007	326	13	19	28	33	8	68
	2008	329	11	18	27	35	9	71

Graduation Requirements (Grade 10)

Table 3 summarizes the proportion of 10th grade students in Broward who scored at or above the passing score required by the state Board of Education for graduation from high school with a standard diploma.

Table 3

Broward 10th Grade FCAT Graduation Requirements, 2006 to 2008

Subject Area	School Year	Percent Passing	
		Broward	State
Reading	2006	54	52
	2007	53	52
	2008	57	57
Mathematics	2006	79	77
	2007	80	78
	2008	82	81

The percent of grade 10 students in Broward passing the Reading portion of the FCAT increased from 53% to 57% in the past year, while the statewide passing rate also increased to 57% (from 52% in the prior year). The grade 10 passing rate among Broward students for Mathematics increased from 80% to 82% in the past year, and the statewide passing rate increased from 78% to 81%. Broward's passing rates continue to equal or exceed the statewide passing rates in Reading and Mathematics. Students who have not yet earned passing scores on the 10th grade FCAT will have additional opportunities to retake the examination prior to graduation.

Comparisons to Statewide Results and Other Large Districts in Florida

Students in Broward County continue to demonstrate achievement comparable to or better than statewide averages and those of other large districts throughout the state. Table 4 (next page) 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 includes the percentages of students scoring at Achievement Level 3 or higher and the mean developmental scale score (DSS) on the Reading and Mathematics subtests.

In Reading, the percentage of Broward students scoring at Achievement Level 3 or higher equaled or exceeded the statewide rate in all grades except grade 5, where BCPS was one point lower than the state (66% versus 67%). In Mathematics, Broward students performed better than students statewide **at all grade levels**.

In Reading, the percentage of Broward students scoring at Achievement Level 3 or higher exceeded the other large school districts at grade levels 3, 4, 6, 7, and 8. In Mathematics, the percentage of Broward students scoring at Achievement Level 3 or higher exceeded other large school districts at grade levels 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 10.

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Table 4

FCAT-SSS Reading and Mathematics Results on the 2008 FCAT

Grade	District/State	FCAT-SSS			
		Reading		Mathematics	
		% Scoring Level 3 or Above	Mean DSS	% Scoring Level 3 or Above	Mean DSS
3	State	72	1378	76	1454
	Broward	72	1376	80	1488
	Miami-Dade	67	1320	75	1443
	Hillsborough	71	1371	74	1440
	Orange	69	1348	70	1412
	Palm Beach	71	1368	76	1464
4	State	70	1577	71	1562
	Broward	70	1577	76	1596
	Miami-Dade	65	1545	68	1547
	Hillsborough	67	1562	67	1547
	Orange	68	1560	68	1544
	Palm Beach	69	1582	74	1592
5	State	67	1624	61	1671
	Broward	66	1620	67	1706
	Miami-Dade	63	1588	58	1652
	Hillsborough	65	1610	62	1672
	Orange	66	1610	58	1646
	Palm Beach	67	1629	65	1692
6	State	63	1705	53	1687
	Broward	67	1742	59	1736
	Miami-Dade	57	1650	47	1649
	Hillsborough	61	1690	53	1686
	Orange	63	1695	51	1673
	Palm Beach	64	1714	56	1706
7	State	65	1798	61	1824
	Broward	67	1818	65	1856
	Miami-Dade	60	1754	56	1799
	Hillsborough	62	1783	62	1833
	Orange	64	1792	60	1822
	Palm Beach	64	1792	63	1838
8	State	53	1886	67	1910
	Broward	56	1903	69	1927
	Miami-Dade	49	1859	62	1890
	Hillsborough	50	1873	65	1911
	Orange	51	1878	64	1901
	Palm Beach	55	1893	71	1930
9	State	46	1926	65	1946
	Broward	47	1933	68	1961
	Miami-Dade	38	1863	58	1912
	Hillsborough	46	1931	67	1958
	Orange	45	1921	64	1941
	Palm Beach	48	1936	69	1965
10	State	38	1958	69	1998
	Broward	38	1962	71	2010
	Miami-Dade	30	1892	62	1973
	Hillsborough	41	1982	70	2010
	Orange	38	1952	67	1994
	Palm Beach	39	1963	70	2009

Broward FCAT Results in Science

Table 5 summarizes the results of the FCAT Science test for students in Broward County. In Broward County, average Science scale scores increased at grade 8 (by 7 points) and remained stable at grades 5 and 11 from 2007 to 2008. Slight changes were noted in the proportion of students scoring at or above Achievement Level 3 in grades 5 (1 point decrease) and 11 (1 point increase), with a slightly larger increase at grade 8 (from 36% to 39%).

Table 5

Broward FCAT Science Results, 2003 to 2008

Grade	Year	Mean Scale Score	Percent of Students in Each Achievement Level					
			1	2	3	4	5	3 or Higher
5	2006	298	30	35	27	6	2	35
	2007	308	24	33	33	8	2	43
	2008	308	25	33	31	8	3	42
8	2006	290	36	32	26	6	1	32
	2007	297	32	32	28	7	1	36
	2008	304	27	34	30	7	2	39
11	2006	296	33	34	28	4	0	32
	2007	302	30	35	29	5	1	34
	2008	302	31	34	29	5	1	35

Table 6 presents comparative data for Broward County, Florida as a whole, and four of the largest school districts in the state (Miami-Dade, Hillsborough, Orange, and Palm Beach). Students in Broward County demonstrated achievement in Science comparable to statewide averages in grades 5 and 8, but were three percentage points lower in grade 11 (35% versus 38%). Palm Beach and Hillsborough students consistently performed the highest in each grade level; however, Broward student performance was in line at each grade level.

Table 6

FCAT SSS Science Results on the 2008 FCAT

Grade	District/State	% Level 3 or Above	Mean Scale Score
5	State	43	310
	Broward	42	308
	Miami-Dade	39	303
	Hillsborough	42	308
	Orange	39	303
	Palm Beach	50	319
8	State	40	305
	Broward	39	304
	Miami-Dade	35	295
	Hillsborough	40	304
	Orange	38	302
	Palm Beach	43	309
11	State	38	304
	Broward	35	302
	Miami-Dade	29	292
	Hillsborough	43	310
	Orange	36	303
	Palm Beach	42	309

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This memorandum and school-by-school results for the past three years can be accessed on the Student Assessment & School Performance Web site at <http://www.broward.k12.fl.us/studentassessment/AssessmentReleases.htm>. On Thursday, June 12, individual student reports will be available on the FCAT Parent Network Web site at www.FCATParentNetwork.com. **If you have any questions regarding this release, please contact me at (754) 321-2470, or Paul Houchens, Director of Student Assessment & School Performance, at (754) 321-4257.**

JFN/KB/PWH:tje

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