

**THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA
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May 15, 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 HIGH SCHOOL RETAKES**

Today, the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) released the 2008 results of the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) for those Broward students who participated in the March 2008 FCAT for the purposes of meeting high school graduation requirements. These results include those retained tenth grade students who have taken the tenth grade FCAT previously, but did not earn passing scores on the Sunshine State Standards (SSS) portion in Reading and/or Mathematics, as well as those grade 11, 12, and adult students who have not yet met the FCAT graduation requirement, including those who are newly enrolled in the Florida public school system. The results indicate that:

- More first-time grade 10 test takers pass the Mathematics test than the Reading test; therefore, students were more likely to retake the Reading test than the Mathematics test. In general, the passing rates for the Mathematics retakes were higher than the passing rate for the Reading retakes.
- Of the 2,299 twelfth grade students in Broward who took the Reading test, 322 (14%) met or exceeded the passing criteria. This represents a decrease of one percentage point in the passing rate from the previous year in Reading.
- Of the 895 twelfth grade students who took the Mathematics test, 286 (32%) met or exceeded the passing criteria; this is a 9% increase in the passing rate from the previous year.
- At the eleventh grade, 5,367 Broward students took the Reading test and 1,181 (22%) passed. Also at the eleventh grade, 2,319 Broward students took the Mathematics test and 881 (38%) passed.
- The percentage of tenth grade students retaking the grade 10 FCAT who met the passing criteria on Reading increased by three percentage points. There was also a three percentage point increase in the passing rate in Mathematics from the previous year.

Disaggregated Retake Results for Broward

The results released by FDOE today report the passing rates for students in grades 10, 11, and 12 as well as students who are participating in adult education programs. The passing rates for those groups of students are presented in Table 1 for years 2006 to 2008. Although multiple years of data are presented, comparisons across years should be made with caution as the retake students are a non-representative sample. As displayed in Table 1:

- Passing rates for Grade 10 students have shown a three percentage point increase in reading and mathematics from 2007.
- Grade 11 students have shown a four percentage point increase in passing rates for reading and mathematics from 2007.
- Grade 12 passing rates were stable in reading, but have increased by nine percentage points in mathematics since 2007. However, this is only a two percentage point increase from 2006.

Table 1

Passing Rates Among Broward Retake Students on FCAT SSS, 2006-2008

		SSS READING			SSS MATHEMATICS		
		Number Tested	Percent Passed	Number Passed	Number Tested	Percent Passed	Number Passed
Grade 10	2006	353	11%	39	241	28%	67
	2007	434	13%	56	294	27%	79
	2008	681	16%	109	314	30%	94
Grade 11	2006	5,382	19%	1,023	2,817	35%	986
	2007	5,690	18%	1,024	2,545	34%	865
	2008	5,367	22%	1,181	2,319	38%	881
Grade 12	2006	2,665	13%	346	1,128	30%	338
	2007	2,750	15%	413	1,019	23%	234
	2008	2,299	14%	322	895	32%	286
Adult*	2006	338	4%	14	91	13%	12
	2007	279	11%	31	69	19%	13
	2008	194	10%	19	38	11%	4

*Adult Education students are not discussed due to the small sample size.

These results should not be interpreted as high school graduation rates. There are additional requirements for earning a high school diploma beyond passing the FCAT, and in some cases students may be exempted from the FCAT graduation requirement or may meet the requirement via an alternative assessment.

Comparison with the State and Other Large Districts in Florida

Table 2 summarizes the FCAT Retake results for twelfth grade students in Broward, the state as a whole, and four of the largest school districts in Florida (Miami-Dade, Orange, Palm Beach, and Hillsborough Counties). In general twelfth grade students have had multiple opportunities (six attempts) to pass the grade 10 FCAT. The proportion of Broward grade 12 students passing the Reading test is slightly behind the State, but in line with Orange, Palm Beach, and Hillsborough Counties. In Mathematics, Broward grade 12 student results were also in line with Orange County, Hillsborough County, and the state.

Table 2

FCAT 12th Grade Reading and Mathematics Passing Rates 2008

District/State	SSS READING			SSS MATHEMATICS		
	Number Tested	Percent Passed	Number Passed	Number Tested	Percent Passed	Number Passed
State	24,069	16%	3,851	9,971	32%	3,191
Broward	2,299	14%	322	895	32%	286
Miami-Dade	5,023	12%	603	2,197	24%	527
Orange	1,833	15%	275	734	34%	250
Palm Beach	1,564	13%	203	579	29%	168
Hillsborough	1,501	15%	225	592	33%	195

Table 3 presents the retake results for eleventh grade students. In general, eleventh grade students have also had multiple opportunities (three attempts) to pass the grade 10 FCAT. In Reading, Broward grade 11 student results were in line with the State, as well as Orange, Palm Beach, and Hillsborough Counties. In Mathematics, Broward grade 11 student results were also in line with the State, and closely mirrored Palm Beach and Hillsborough Counties.

Table 3

FCAT 11th Grade Reading and Mathematics Passing Rates 2008

District/State	SSS READING			SSS MATHEMATICS		
	Number Tested	Percent Passed	Number Passed	Number Tested	Percent Passed	Number Passed
State	55,593	22%	12,230	25,257	39%	9,850
Broward	5,367	22%	1,181	2,319	38%	881
Miami-Dade	8,780	17%	1,493	4,282	33%	1,413
Orange	4,077	23%	938	1,919	40%	768
Palm Beach	3,864	21%	811	1,589	38%	604
Hillsborough	3,858	22%	849	1,967	39%	767

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Table 4 presents the Retake results for students in grade 10. These students have been in tenth grade for more than one year and have attempted the grade 10 FCAT at least once before. It is important to note that the results in the table do not reflect the performance of tenth grade students who attempted the FCAT for the first time in March 2008.

Table 4

FCAT 10th Grade Reading and Mathematics Passing Rates 2008

District/State	SSS READING			SSS MATHEMATICS		
	Number Tested	Percent Passed	Number Passed	Number Tested	Percent Passed	Number Passed
State	5,737	16%	918	3,333	30%	1,000
Broward	681	16%	109	314	30%	94
Miami-Dade	1,796	15%	269	1,057	25%	264
Orange	310	14%	43	202	28%	57
Palm Beach	508	13%	66	341	28%	95
Hillsborough	282	23%	65	83	23%	19

Reading scores for Broward reflect a 16% passing rate at the tenth grade level. This is in line with the passing rate statewide (16%) and exceeds three of the four other large school districts displayed in the table (Miami-Dade, Orange, and Palm Beach Counties). In Mathematics, scores for Broward tenth grade Retake students reflect a 30% passing rate, which equals the statewide passing rate and is greater than the passing rates of all other large districts in Florida.

This memorandum and a summary of school level results are available on the Student Assessment & School Performance Web site (<http://www.broward.k12.fl.us/studentassessment/AssessmentReleases.htm>). **If you have any questions regarding this release, please contact me at (754) 321-2470 or Paul Houchens, Director, Student Assessment & School Performance at 754-321-4257.**

JFN/KAB/PH:dg

cc: Executive Leadership Team
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