

**THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA
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May 27, 2008

TO: School Board Members

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

VIA: James F. Notter
Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: **2008 RELEASE OF FLORIDA COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT TEST
(FCAT) NORM-REFERENCED TEST (NRT) RESULTS FOR GRADES
4 THROUGH 10**

The Florida Department of Education (FDOE) released statewide, district, and school-by-school results of the 2008 Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test, Norm-Referenced Test (FCAT-NRT) for grades 4 through 10 today. Broward's students performed above the national average in both Reading and Mathematics at all grade levels. In addition, increased performance was evident in Reading at grades four, six, seven, and ten and in Mathematics at grades five, six, and eight. However, other grade levels also evidenced a decline in performance from 2007. While yearly fluctuations are evident, a positive trend can be seen in grades 4-10 in Reading and grades 4-9 in Mathematics (grade 3 has been stable in both subjects and grade 10 has been stable in Mathematics).

This memorandum summarizes the results for the District. Scores are reported for grades 3 through 10 for the NRT portions of the FCAT. It is important to note that FCAT-NRT results are **not** used to determine school grades under Florida's A+ Plan or Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) under the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act. Student performance on the FCAT-NRT is reported in terms of median national percentile rank (NPR) scores. As a norm-referenced test, the FCAT-NRT allows for comparisons between students in Broward County and a sample of students drawn from across the nation. NPR scores range from 1 to 99, where a score at the 50th percentile represents average performance. In 2005 the FDOE adopted a new version of the FCAT-NRT based on a secure version of the tenth edition of the Stanford Achievement Test (SAT-10). Prior to 2005, the FCAT-NRT was based on the ninth edition of the Stanford (SAT-9).

The following report indicates that:

- On the FCAT-NRT Reading and Mathematics subtests, Broward County's median national percentile rank indicated performance that exceeded the national average in all grade levels, 3 through 10.

- Broward's students registered increased median NPRs on the Reading subtest in 2008 relative to 2007, with the exception of grades three, five, and nine. The third, fifth, and ninth grade median NPR's decreased from 2007 to 2008 (63 to 61, 76 to 73, and 74 to 70 respectively). There was no change at grade eight.
- On FCAT-NRT Mathematics subtest, Broward's students registered increased median NPRs at grades five, six, and eight from 2007 to 2008. The third, fourth, ninth, and tenth grade median NPR's decreased from 2007 to 2008 (72 to 66, 79 to 73, 78 to 76, and 72 to 67 respectively). There was no change at grade seven.

As Table 1 shows, Broward's median national percentile rank exceeded the national average (50th percentile) at all grade levels in Reading. Although the median percentile rank scores earned by students in Broward County from 2002 to 2008 are reported, because the 2005, 2006, 2007, and 2008 FCAT-NRT assessment is a new version of the test (SAT-10). Year-to-year increases were evidenced for half of the grade levels assessed (grades four, six, seven, and ten). The percentile point increase at grade ten is particularly noteworthy (66 to 76). Reading performance at grade eight remained stable. Although Reading performance in grades three, five, and nine was maintained well above the national average, declines were noted from 2007 to 2008. All declines on the Reading subtest were within the range of normal score fluctuation.

Table 1

Broward FCAT-NRT Reading Results, 2002 to 2008

Grade	2002	2003	2004	2005*	2006	2007	2008
3	59	62	62	49	61	63	61
4	57	59	63	54	72	63	70
5	54	56	57	60	70	76	73
6	56	56	56	57	69	67	69
7	59	61	61	58	69	68	73
8	61	62	62	71	68	71	71
9	42	43	43	65	71	74	70
10	53	46	46	62	71	66	76

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

Table 2 (page 3) displays the results from the Mathematics subtest. Review of the table shows that Broward's median national percentile rank exceeded the national average (50th percentile) at all grade levels, 3 through 10. In addition, the median NPRs increased at grades five, six, and eight from 2007 to 2008. Although Mathematics performance in grades three, four, nine, and ten was maintained well above the national average, a decline was noted from 2007 to 2008. While the decrease registered at grade nine was within the range of normal score fluctuation, the changes observed at grades three, four, and ten were notable.

Table 2

Broward FCAT-NRT Mathematics Results, 2002 to 2008

Grade	2002	2003	2004	2005*	2006	2007	2008
3	67	69	71	64	69	72	66
4	64	66	71	64	74	79	73
5	66	66	68	69	77	80	81
6	68	69	70	65	72	69	76
7	70	71	72	69	74	76	76
8	67	68	69	71	78	77	78
9	64	66	68	73	78	78	76
10	69	68	69	59	74	72	67

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

Comparisons to Statewide Results and Other Large Districts in Florida

Table 3 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 displays the median national percentile rank on the FCAT-NRT Reading and Mathematics tests. The results released today show that Broward County's students registered scores that equaled or exceeded performance statewide in both Reading and Mathematics. In addition, Broward students' performance equaled or exceeded performance of students in most large districts throughout the state in both Reading and Mathematics, with few exceptions. At grade four, Palm Beach students' scores exceeded Broward scores by one percentile point in Mathematics (74 vs. 73), and at grade five in Reading (74 vs. 73). At grade nine, Hillsborough students' scores exceeded Broward scores in Reading by one percentile point (71 vs. 70). At grade ten, Hillsborough students' scores exceeded Broward scores in Reading by one percentile point (77 vs. 76) and in Mathematics by two percentile points (69 vs. 67).

Table 3

FCAT-NRT Reading and Mathematics Results, 2007-08

Grade	District/State	FCAT-NRT Median National Percentile Rank	
		Reading	Mathematics
3	State	60	63
	Broward	61	66
	Miami-Dade	56	58
	Hillsborough	59	64
	Orange	58	59
	Palm Beach	60	63
4	State	69	71
	Broward	70	73
	Miami-Dade	66	68
	Hillsborough	68	72
	Orange	68	71
	Palm Beach	70	74
5	State	73	77
	Broward	73	81
	Miami-Dade	70	72
	Hillsborough	72	76
	Orange	72	76
	Palm Beach	74	80

(Table 3 continues)

Table 3 continued.

Grade	District/State	FCAT-NRT Median National Percentile Rank	
		Reading	Mathematics
6	State	65	71
	Broward	69	76
	Miami-Dade	58	64
	Hillsborough	65	72
	Orange	64	70
	Palm Beach	66	73
7	State	70	72
	Broward	73	76
	Miami-Dade	63	67
	Hillsborough	71	74
	Orange	69	72
	Palm Beach	69	73
8	State	68	74
	Broward	71	78
	Miami-Dade	62	70
	Hillsborough	67	76
	Orange	68	73
	Palm Beach	68	77
9	State	67	73
	Broward	70	76
	Miami-Dade	58	67
	Hillsborough	71	76
	Orange	69	73
	Palm Beach	66	75
10	State	71	63
	Broward	76	67
	Miami-Dade	62	55
	Hillsborough	77	69
	Orange	74	66
	Palm Beach	69	65

Individual school data are available on the FDOE Web site at <http://fcat.fldoe.org/nrinfopg.asp>. This memorandum can be accessed on the Student Assessment Web site at <http://www.broward.k12.fl.us/studentassessment/AssessmentReleases.htm>. A three year report of school NRT performance will be also available by week's end. **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/PH:dg

cc: Executive Leadership Team
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