

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

**JAMES F. NOTTER  
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

**Telephone: (754) 321-2600**

**Facsimile: (754) 321-2701**

*Signatures on File*

May 28, 2009

TO: School Board Members

FROM: Joanne W. Harrison, Ed.D., Deputy Superintendent  
Educational Programs & Student Support

VIA: James F. Notter  
Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: **RELEASE OF 2009 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 2009 Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test–Sunshine State Standards (FCAT-SSS) in Reading and Mathematics for grades 4 through 10 and Science in grade 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 2009 FCAT-SSS 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 alternate assessments will be included in AYP calculations.

In the following summary you will find that:

- Increases occurred in the percent of students scoring at Achievement Level 3 or higher on the SSS Reading subtest in grades 4, 5, 7, and 8, when compared to the 2008 school year. Decreases were observed in grades 3, 9, and 10. Nevertheless, **Broward performed as similar to or better than the state in every grade level on the Reading subtest.**
- 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 were observed in every grade except grade 3 (no change) when compared to the 2008 school year.
- At grade 10, graduation passing rates among Broward students increased from the previous year in Reading (from 57% to 58%) and Mathematics (from 82% to 83%). These exceed the statewide passing rates.
- Science results were generally positive. In grades 5 and 8, the mean scale scores increased, as did the percent of students scoring at Achievement Level 3. In grade 11 the mean scale score decreased one point, although the proportion of students scoring at or above Achievement Level 3 remained stable at 35%.

### Broward FCAT Results in Reading and Mathematics

In general, the FCAT-SSS results reflect a trend in upward performance in Reading and Mathematics in most grade levels. Table 1 summarizes BCPS student performance on the Reading subtest from 2007 to 2009. Examination of Table 1 reveals that the largest gain on the Reading portion of the FCAT-SSS occurred at grade 4 and 5, with an increase of 6 percentage points in the proportion of students scoring at Achievement Level 3 or higher from 2008 to 2009. Gains in Reading were demonstrated in grade levels 4, 5, 7, and 8. When the FCAT-SSS Reading results are compared over the three year period shown in Table 1, increases in student achievement are noted at every grade level except grade 5, where performance decreased by 1 percentage point during the time period examined.

Table 2 presents the results of Broward student performance on the Mathematics subtest of the FCAT-SSS from 2007 to 2009. As Table 2 shows, the largest gains in SSS Mathematics occurred at grade 4, where a 3 percentage point increase in the proportion of students scoring at Achievement Level 3 or higher was noted compared to 2008. Gains from the previous year were observed in every grade level except grade 3 (no change) when compared to 2008. When the FCAT-SSS Mathematics results are compared over the three year period shown in the table, increases in student achievement are noted at every grade level in the period from 2007 to 2009.

Table 1

#### *Broward FCAT Reading Results, 2007 to 2009*

Grade	Year	Mean Scale Score	Percent of Students in Each Achievement Level					
			1	2	3	4	5	3 or Higher
3	2007	310	19	13	33	28	8	68
	2008	312	16	12	35	30	7	72
	2009	313	17	12	33	31	8	71
4	2007	316	17	15	34	27	7	68
	2008	319	17	14	32	29	8	70
	2009	325	12	13	36	31	9	76
5	2007	311	13	14	36	30	7	73
	2008	305	17	17	34	26	6	66
	2009	314	14	14	33	30	9	72
6	2007	308	19	19	33	22	7	62
	2008	317	16	17	32	25	10	67
	2009	316	16	17	33	26	8	67
7	2007	318	15	19	35	22	9	66
	2008	319	15	18	34	24	8	67
	2009	323	13	17	35	26	9	70

*(table continues)*

2009 FCAT Results for Grades 4-10

May 28, 2009

Page 3 of 6

Table 1 (*continued*).

Grade	Year	Mean Scale Score	Percent of Students in Each Achievement Level					3 or Higher
			1	2	3	4	5	
8	2007	306	20	29	33	15	2	51
	2008	314	16	28	35	18	3	56
	2009	316	15	28	33	19	4	57
9	2007	309	27	31	25	12	5	42
	2008	314	25	28	27	14	6	47
	2009	316	22	32	27	13	7	46
10	2007	302	38	28	17	7	10	34
	2008	307	34	28	18	8	12	38
	2009	307	33	30	19	7	11	37

Table 2

*Broward FCAT Mathematics Results, 2007 to 2009*

Grade	Year	Mean Scale Score	Percent of Students in Each Achievement Level					3 or Higher
			1	2	3	4	5	
3	2007	337	9	13	32	29	17	78
	2008	341	8	12	33	31	17	80
	2009	343	9	12	30	31	19	80
4	2007	329	9	16	37	27	11	75
	2008	332	10	15	36	27	13	76
	2009	337	8	13	35	29	14	79
5	2007	343	10	22	27	29	12	68
	2008	341	12	21	26	29	12	67
	2009	344	11	20	25	30	13	69
6	2007	317	24	20	27	18	10	56
	2008	324	21	20	28	20	12	59
	2009	325	20	18	28	21	12	61
7	2007	320	16	19	31	22	11	65
	2008	323	15	19	32	21	12	65
	2009	323	15	18	31	23	12	67
8	2007	323	16	18	32	18	16	66
	2008	328	13	18	34	20	16	69
	2009	328	12	18	36	20	14	70
9	2007	308	15	21	30	23	11	64
	2008	313	13	19	32	25	11	68
	2009	316	11	19	32	26	13	70
10	2007	326	13	19	28	33	8	68
	2008	329	11	18	27	35	9	71
	2009	330	11	17	29	34	9	72

**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, 2007 to 2009*

Subject Area	School Year	Percent Passing	
		Broward	State
Reading	2007	53	52
	2008	57	57
	2009	58	57
Mathematics	2007	80	78
	2008	82	81
	2009	83	81

The percent of grade 10 students in Broward passing the Reading portion of the FCAT increased from 57% to 58% in the past year, while the statewide passing rate remained stable at 57% from the prior year. The grade 10 passing rate among Broward students for Mathematics increased from 82% to 83% in the past year, while the statewide passing rate remained stable at 81%.

**Broward's passing rates 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.

**Broward FCAT Results in Science**

Table 4 summarizes the results of the FCAT Science test for students in Broward County. Average Science scale scores increased in grades 5 and 8, and decreased by one point in grade 11 from 2008 to 2009. Increases were noted in the proportion of students scoring at or above Achievement Level 3 in grades 5 and 8, while grade 11 remained stable.

Table 4

*Broward FCAT Science Results, 2007 to 2009*

Grade	Year	Mean Scale Score	Percent of Students in Each Achievement Level					
			1	2	3	4	5	3 or Higher
5	2007	308	24	33	33	8	2	43
	2008	308	25	33	31	8	3	42
	2009	314	22	33	33	10	3	45
8	2007	297	32	32	28	7	1	36
	2008	304	27	34	30	7	2	39
	2009	306	27	32	32	8	2	42
11	2007	302	30	35	29	5	1	34
	2008	302	31	34	29	5	1	35
	2009	301	32	32	29	6	1	35

### Comparisons to Statewide Results and Other Large Districts in Florida

In general, 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 5 presents the percentages of students scoring at Achievement Level 3 or higher 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).

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 9, where BCPS was one point lower than the state (46% versus 47%). 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 equaled or exceeded the other large school districts at grade levels 3, 4, 5, 7, and 8. In Mathematics, the percentage of Broward students scoring at Achievement Level 3 or higher equaled or exceeded other large school districts at every grade level except grade 9 (Palm Beach outperformed the state and all other large districts at this grade level).

Students in Broward County demonstrated achievement in Science within one percentage point of statewide averages in grades 5 and 8, but were two percentage points lower in grade 11 (35% versus 37%).

Table 5

#### *FCAT-SSS Reading, Mathematics, and Science Results on the 2009 FCAT*

District/State	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9	Grade 10
Reading								
State	71	74	71	66	67	54	47	37
<b>Broward</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>37</b>
Miami-Dade	65	70	67	60	61	48	43	31
Hillsborough	68	72	68	64	63	52	44	38
Orange	69	73	72	62	64	51	46	36
Palm Beach	69	74	72	69	67	55	48	40
Mathematics								
State	78	75	62	55	60	66	68	69
<b>Broward</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>72</b>
Miami-Dade	76	73	59	51	56	60	65	65
Hillsborough	76	73	62	54	59	65	67	70
Orange	73	72	61	51	58	63	66	67
Palm Beach	79	77	65	61	65	70	72	72
Science								
	Grade 5	Grade 8	Grade 11					
State	46	41	37					
<b>Broward</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>35</b>					
Miami-Dade	42	34	29					
Hillsborough	45	43	40					
Orange	44	38	39					
Palm Beach	53	46	41					

2009 FCAT Results for Grades 4-10

May 28, 2009

Page 6 of 6

This memorandum can be accessed on the Student Assessment & School Performance Web site at <http://www.broward.k12.fl.us/studentassessment/AssessmentReleases.htm>. School-by-school results and state and district summary data may be found on the Florida Department of Education Web site at <http://fcats.fldoe.org/>. **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/JWH/KB/PH:tje

cc: Executive Leadership Team  
Area Directors  
Principals  
Diane Carr, Executive Director, Core Curriculum  
Leslie Brown, Executive Director, Educational Programs  
PTA  
DAC