

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

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TO: School Board Members

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

VIA: James F. Notter  
Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: **2007-08 SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY RESULTS: FLORIDA'S A++  
PLAN AND NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND**

Today Governor Charlie Crist and Education Commissioner Eric Smith released the 2007-08 school accountability results, which include school grades under Florida's A++ Plan for Education and Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) under the Federal No Child Left Behind Act.

**Florida's A++ Plan: School Grades**

School grade calculations are based on student performance as measured by the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test – Sunshine State Standards (FCAT-SSS) in Reading, Mathematics, Science, and Writing. The school grade formula is comprised of student performance in Reading, Mathematics, Science (Achievement Level 3 or higher), and Writing (essay score of 3.5 or higher); annual learning gains in Reading and Mathematics; and progress demonstrated by students struggling in Reading and/or Mathematics. While multi-year comparisons are made in this memorandum, the school performance grading formula was altered during the 2006-07 school year. Two new components were added: (1) Science became the fourth “achieving high standards” category (defined by the percent of students scoring at Achievement Level 3 and higher); and (2) learning gains for the lowest 25% of students in Mathematics. Additionally, ten school grade bonus points can be earned by high schools if 50% or more of all 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students who *retake* the FCAT-SSS Reading and/or Mathematics test meet the graduation requirement. **As a district, Broward received an “A” grade this school year.**

An examination of this year's A++ Plan results revealed that nearly 3 of 4 (74.4%) of Broward's schools earned a grade of “A” or “B” and 92.2% of schools earned a grade of “C” or higher. Table 1 displays school grades by school type and for the District.

Examination of Table 1 reveals that:

- 99 elementary schools, 29 middle schools, and 13 high schools received a grade of “A” for a total of 141 schools, up from 123 last year,
- 21 elementary, 13 middle, and 5 high schools received a grade of “B” for a total of 39 schools, the same as last year,
- 24 elementary, 10 middle, and 9 high schools received a grade of “C” for a total of 43 schools, down from 51 schools last year,
- 4 elementary, 3 middle, and 6 high schools received a grade of “D” for a total of 13 schools, down from 14 last year,
- 6 Broward County schools received a grade of “F” (Sunland Park Elementary, Coconut Creek High, Smart School High, Imagine Charter North Lauderdale Elementary, Downtown Academy Of Technology & Arts, Susie Daniels Charter), which is a decrease from 9 schools during 2006-07,
- 3 schools have received two or more “F” grades within the past four years (Sunland Park, Downtown Academy of Technology and Arts, and Smart School High).

Table 1

*School Grades by Level, 2005-06 to 2007-08*

Level	Grade	2005-06		2006-07		2007-08	
		<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Elementary	A	111	77.1	97	65.1	99	65.6
	B	18	12.5	26	17.4	21	13.9
	C	12	8.3	20	13.4	24	15.9
	D	3	2.1	3	2.0	4	2.6
	F	0	0.0	3	2.0	3	2.0
	Total		144		149		151
Middle	A	36	70.6	20	37.7	29	51.8
	B	9	17.6	9	17.0	13	23.2
	C	6	11.8	15	28.3	10	17.9
	D	0	0.0	6	11.3	3	5.4
	F	0	0.0	3	5.7	1	1.8
	Total		51		53		56
High	A	10	29.4	6	17.6	13	37.1
	B	9	26.5	4	11.8	5	14.3
	C	12	35.3	16	47.1	9	25.7
	D	3	8.8	5	14.7	6	17.1
	F	0	0.0	3	8.8	2	5.7
	Total		34		34		35
Total	A	157	68.6	123	52.1	141	58.3
	B	36	15.7	39	16.5	39	16.1
	C	30	13.1	51	21.6	43	17.8
	D	6	2.6	14	5.9	13	5.4
	F	0	0.0	9	3.8	6	2.5
	Total		229		236		242

Year-to-year progress in improving school grades is as important as the number of schools earning the highest grades of “A” and “B.” In this regard, **44 schools improved by one letter grade from 2006-07 to 2007-08. Additionally, 14 schools improved their school grade by two letter grades from the prior school year.**

The school grade calculation includes a provision for high schools to earn 10 bonus points if at least 50% of their 11th and 12th grade retake students meet the score required to earn a high school diploma. **Seventeen Broward County high schools (South Broward, McArthur, Fort Lauderdale, Coral Springs, Northeast, Nova, Hollywood Hills, Cooper City, J. P. Taravella, Western, Marjory Stoneman Douglas, Charles W. Flanagan, Monarch, Cypress Bay, Coral Glades, Coral Springs Charter, and Pembroke Pines Charter) earned these bonus points this year.** This is an increase from two schools during the 2006-07 school year. In general, the trend in high school performance underscores the impact of high school reform initiatives.

Table 2 displays school grade distributions for the State and the five largest school districts in Florida. Broward, Orange, and Palm Beach Counties received “A” grades (last year Broward received a B). Palm Beach (79.5%) and Broward (74.4%) registered the highest proportions of “A” and “B” schools. At the other end of the grading scale, Broward (2.5%) and Palm Beach (2.3%) also registered similar proportions of “F” schools.

Table 2

*School Grade Distributions for the Five Largest School Districts in Florida, 2007-08.*

	District Grade	A		B		C		D		F	
		<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
State	NA	1583	54.8	542	18.8	565	19.6	154	5.3	45	1.6
<b>Broward</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>58.3</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>16.1</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>17.8</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2.5</b>
Hillsborough	B	103	47.7	46	21.3	53	24.5	11	5.1	3	1.4
Miami-Dade	B	171	48.7	56	16	84	23.9	27	7.7	13	3.7
Orange	A	99	55.6	32	18	33	18.5	12	6.7	2	1.1
Palm Beach	A	109	61.9	31	17.6	26	14.8	6	3.4	4	2.3

**No Child Left Behind: Adequate Yearly Progress**

The No Child Left Behind (NCLB) legislation requires that specified student subgroups (five ethnic groups, students with disabilities, students learning English, and economically disadvantaged students) in schools, districts, and the state as a whole attain adequate yearly progress (AYP) in Reading, Mathematics, and Writing. The 2007-08 proficiency targets were 58% for Reading 62% for Mathematics. In Writing, the proportion of proficient students must improve annually if the school is not at least 90% proficient. Additionally, in high school the graduation rate must continue to increase on an annual basis if it is not already deemed at or above 85%. **Statewide, 781 schools (23.7%) met AYP and 2,512 (76.3%) did not meet AYP.**

Table 3 displays AYP designation for all Broward schools for the years 2005-06 through 2007-08. Of the 272 public schools in Broward County, 85 schools (31.3%) met AYP in 2007-08 (74 Elementary, 6 Middle, and 5 High schools). A total of 187 Broward schools (68.8%) did not meet AYP (84 Elementary, 52 Middle, 35 High, and 16 Centers). A longitudinal

review of the data revealed year-to-year decrease in the number of elementary, middle, and high schools making AYP. However, this would be expected with the continuing increase in the requirements to make AYP.

Table 3

*School AYP Designation, 2005-06 through 2007-08*

Level	Met AYP	2005-06		2006-07		2007-08	
		<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Elementary	Yes	107	70.4	99	63.5	74	46.8
	No	45*	29.6	57	36.5	84	53.2
	Total	152		156		158	
Middle	Yes	18	35.3	12	21.8	6	10.3
	No	33*	64.7	43	78.2	52	89.7
	Total	51		55		58	
High	Yes	6	16.7	3	8.1	5	12.5
	No	30*	83.3	34	91.9	35	87.5
	Total	36		37		40	
Center	Yes	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
	No	13*	100.0	11	100.0	16	100.0
	Total	13		11		16	
District	Yes	131	52.0	114	44.0	85	31.3
	No	121*	48.0	145	56.0	187	68.8
	Total	252		259		272	

\*In 2005-06, schools that earned a school grade of "A" or "B" and did not meet AYP were designated with a "Provisional" status. These "Provisional" schools were not counted as meeting AYP by either the state or federal governments.

The Florida Department of Education has issued report cards for each school which provide school grades, AYP designations, supporting data, and information on options for parents. This information can be accessed through the Florida Department of Education's Web site at <http://schoolgrades.fldoe.org/>. A three year report of school grades and AYP results will be available on the Student Assessment Web site at <http://www.broward.k12.fl.us/studentassessment/AssessmentReleases.htm>. Questions or comments concerning this memorandum should be addressed to **Dr. Katherine Blasik, Associate Superintendent, Research Development, & Assessment at 754-321-2470** or **Paul Houchens, Director, Student Assessment & School Performance at 754-321-4257**. This report may be accessed via the Student Assessment Web site (<http://www.broward.k12.fl.us/studentassessment/>).

JFN/JWH/KAB/PH:tje

cc: Executive Leadership Team  
Area Directors  
Principals