

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

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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 2011 FLORIDA COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT TEST (FCAT) RESULTS FOR HIGH SCHOOL RETAKES**

Today, the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) released the results of the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) Retake administration for Broward students who participated in April 2011. Specifically, these results include retained grade 10, grade 11, grade 12, and adult students who have not yet met the FCAT graduation requirement. However, due to the small number of grade 10 and adult participants, these data are not addressed in this memorandum.

For the first time in Spring 2011 the Mathematics retake administration was entirely computer-based with the exception of students who need accommodations. The impact of this transition is unclear at this point; however, the Student Assessment Department will conduct analysis of student results compared to prior years. Table 1 presents the percent passing and proficient from the 2011 FCAT retakes along with the results from the prior four school years.

Table 1
*Passing Rate among Broward Retake Students, 2007 to 2011**

Year	<u>% Passing Retake Reading</u>				<u>% Passing Retake Mathematics</u>			
	<u>Grade 11</u>		<u>Grade 12</u>		<u>Grade 11</u>		<u>Grade 12</u>	
	Broward	State	Broward	State	Broward	State	Broward	State
2007	18	20	15	15	34	33	23	26
2008	22	22	14	16	38	39	32	32
2009	29	27	16	20	36	33	22	26
2010	24	23	15	16	40	37	32	28
2011	23	22	13	15	29	29	21	21

*Retained Grade 10 and Adult students are not included due to small sample sizes, particularly in Mathematics.

Table 1 shows that historically retake performance in Broward has been similar to the state. In 2011, the proportion of students passing the Reading retake was similar to 2010 for both grade

11 and 12. However, in Mathematics there was a decline of approximately 11 percentage points in both grades between 2010 and 2011. A similar decline was seen in the statewide percentage. Table 2 provides the 2011 passing and proficiency rates for the state and five largest districts.

Table 2

FCAT Retake Results for Florida and the Big 5 Districts.

	% Passing Retake Reading		% Passing Retake Mathematics	
	Grade 11	Grade 12	Grade 11	Grade 12
State	22	15	29	21
Broward	23	13	29	21
Miami-Dade	18	13	25	16
Hillsborough	22	18	26	21
Orange	21	17	29	24
Palm Beach	20	12	28	20

A comparison of the FCAT Retakes reveals Broward's results are comparable to the State and other large districts in grade 11 Reading and Grade 11 and 12 Mathematics. In Grade 12 Reading, Hillsborough and Orange registered higher passing rates among their grade 12 students. Compared to 2010, Mathematics performance in the five largest districts and the state declined by 7 to 11 percentage points with the exception of Grade 12 in Orange county (decline from 26% to 24%). **As the population of students participating in the retakes is similar from year-to-year, and considering the decline is evident statewide and in the five largest districts, the computer-based testing appears to have had an impact on these students' performance.**

Comparisons or judgments based solely on these results to overall district performance are inappropriate because the data do not include students who met the graduation requirement during another FCAT administration or with ACT/SAT concordant scores. These results should not be confused with the complete retake results from 2011 or high school graduation rates. There are several additional requirements for earning a high school diploma beyond passing the FCAT; additionally, some students are exempt from the FCAT graduation requirement and may meet the requirement via an alternative assessment. This memorandum and a summary of school level results can be accessed on the Student Assessment Web site at <http://www.broward.k12.fl.us/studentassessment/AssessmentReleases.htm>. **If you have any questions regarding this release, please contact Paul Houchens, Director, Student Assessment & School Performance at 754-321-4257.**

JFN/JWH:ph

cc: Executive Leadership Team
 Area Directors
 Principals
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 PTA
 DAC