

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

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August 6, 2010

**TO: School Board Members**

**FROM: James F. Notter  
Superintendent of Schools**

**SUBJECT: 2009-10 SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY RESULTS: SCHOOL GRADES  
AND ADEQUATE YEARLY PROGRESS (AYP)**

The 2009-10 school accountability results, which include School Grades and Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) were released today. Some systemic declines in grades have been observed statewide in 2010, and do not conform to the trend from previous years. This suggests that the 2010 test does not align well with the 2009 assessment. The Florida Association of District School Superintendents has questioned the validity of Learning Gains from 2009 to 2010 and is continuing to challenge the accuracy of this year's school grades until such time that there is a transparent, thorough vetting of the 2010 FCAT.

### **School Grades**

**As a district, Broward received an "A" grade again this school year.** 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 (an estimate of 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.

This memorandum details School Grades for the elementary and middle levels only. High School Grades will not be computed until November, as these grades now include: graduation rate, accelerated course enrollments and performance, and readiness for college. An examination of this year's School Grade results revealed that 77.5% of Broward's elementary and middle schools earned a grade of "A" or "B" and 93.9% 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:

- 101 elementary schools and 31 middle schools received a grade of A for a total of 132 schools, down from 153 last year,
- 20 elementary and 13 middle schools received a grade of B for a total of 33 schools, up from 27 last year,
- 27 elementary and 8 middle schools received a grade of C for a total of 35 schools, up from 21 last year,
- 7 elementary and 1 middle school received a grade of D for a total of 8 schools, up from 4 last year,
- 4 elementary and 1 middle school received a grade of F; of these, 2 were charter schools (Imagine North Lauderdale Elementary and Middle), and three traditional schools (Dillard, Walker, and North Lauderdale Elementary).

Table 1

*School Grades by Level, 2007-08 to 2009-10*

Level	Grade	2007-08		2008-09		2009-10	
		<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Elementary	A	99	65.6	117	76.5	101	63.5
	B	21	13.9	16	10.5	20	12.6
	C	24	15.9	14	9.2	27	17.0
	D	4	2.6	4	2.6	7	4.4
	F	3	2.0	2	1.3	4	2.5
	Total		151		153		159
Middle	A	29	51.8	36	65.5	31	57.4
	B	13	23.2	11	20.0	13	24.1
	C	10	17.9	7	12.7	8	14.8
	D	3	5.4	0	0.0	1	1.9
	F	1	1.8	1	1.8	1	1.9
	Total		56		55		54
Total*	A	128	61.8	153	73.6	132	62.0
	B	34	16.4	27	13.0	33	15.5
	C	34	16.4	21	10.1	35	16.4
	D	7	3.4	4	1.9	8	3.8
	F	4	1.9	3	1.4	5	2.3
	Total		207		208		213

\* Since High Schools Grades are not available for 2009-10, they have been removed from the 2008 and 2009.

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, **14 schools improved by one letter grade or more from the 2008-09 to 2009-10 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. **Twenty-four traditional and 3 charter High Schools high schools earned**

**the bonus points because 50% or more of their retake students met the FCAT graduation requirement, the same number as last year.** In general, the trend in high school performance underscores positive effects from high school reform initiatives.

Table 2 displays school grade distributions for the State and the five largest school districts in Florida. Broward, Hillsborough, Orange, and Palm Beach Counties received a grade of A (Broward has received an A in 4 of the last 5 years). In addition, Broward, Hillsborough, Orange, and Palm Beach each had over 75% of schools receiving an A and B grade. At the other end of the grading scale, the number of D schools nearly doubled and the number of F schools nearly tripled, statewide. Systemic declines in school grades have been observed statewide in 2010, and do not conform to the trend from previous years.

Table 2

*School Grade Distributions for the Five Largest School Districts in Florida, 2009-10.*

	District Grade	A		B		C		D		F	
		<i>N</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
State	NA	1,389	55	479	19	485	19	96	4	44	2
<b>Broward</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>
Miami-Dade	B	182	55	34	10	70	21	24	7	11	3
Hillsborough	A	106	52	46	23	36	18	7	3	4	2
Orange	A	106	64	29	17	24	14	3	2	0	0
Palm Beach	A	93	60	20	13	29	19	4	3	3	2

### 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 2009-10 proficiency targets were 72% for Reading and 74% 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 increase by 2 percentage points on an annual basis if it is not already at or above 85%. **Statewide, 456 schools (13.3%) met AYP and 2,967 (86.7%) did not meet AYP.**

Table 3 displays AYP designations for all Broward schools for the years 2007-08 through 2009-10. This year the AYP targets were 72% in Reading and 74% in Mathematics. Of the 285 public schools in Broward County, 40 schools (14.0%) met AYP in 2009-10 (35 Elementary, 3 Middle, and 2 High schools). A total of 245 Broward schools (86.0%) did not meet AYP (134 Elementary, 53 Middle, 41 High, and 17 Centers and Agencies). A longitudinal review of the data revealed year-to-year decrease in the number of elementary, middle, and high schools making AYP. However, this trend is expected in light of the continuing increase in the requirements to make AYP.

Table 3

*School AYP Designation, 2007-08 through 2009-10*

Level	Met AYP	2007-08		2008-09		2009-10	
		<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Elementary	Yes	74	46.8	72	45.0	35	20.7
	No	84	53.2	88	55.0	134	79.3
	Total	158		160		169	
Middle	Yes	6	10.3	5	8.8	3	5.4
	No	52	89.7	52	91.2	53	94.6
	Total	58		57		56	
High	Yes	5	12.5	4	9.3	2	4.7
	No	35	87.5	39	90.7	41	95.3
	Total	40		43		43	
Center	Yes	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
	No	16	100.0	16	100.0	17	100.0
	Total	16		16		17	
District	Yes	85	31.3	81	29.3	40	14.0
	No	187	68.8	195	70.7	245	86.0
	Total	272		276		285	

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 posted to 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** or **Paul Houchens, Director, Student Assessment & School Performance at 754-321-2470**. This report may be accessed via the Student Assessment Web site (<http://www.broward.k12.fl.us/studentassessment/>).

JFN/PH

cc: Executive Leadership Team  
Area Directors  
Principals