

**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 of File

June 29, 2010

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 2010 FLORIDA COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT
TEST–SUNSHINE STATE STANDARDS (FCAT-SSS) FOR GRADES 4-11**

The Florida Department of Education (FDOE) has released state, district, and school-by-school results for the 2010 Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test–Sunshine State Standards (FCAT-SSS) in Reading and Mathematics for grades 4 through 10, Science in grades 5, 8, and 11, and Writing in grades 4, 8, and 10. This memorandum summarizes these results for Broward County Public Schools (BCPS).

The results released today include all students who participated in the 2010 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) law. 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. Student results from alternate assessments will be included in AYP calculations.

The following summary indicates:

- Increases occurred in the percent of students scoring at Achievement Level 3 or higher on the Reading subtest in grades 3, 6, 8, 9, and 10, when compared to the 2009 school year. Decreases were observed in grades 4, 5, and 7. Nevertheless, **Broward performance met or exceeded statewide proficiency in every grade level on the Reading subtest.**
- In Mathematics, **Broward performance met or exceeded statewide proficiency at all grade levels.** Increases in the percent of students scoring at Achievement Level 3 or higher were observed in grades 6, 8, 9, and 10 when compared to the 2009 school year.
- At grade 10, the percent of Broward students meeting the FCAT graduation requirement increased from the previous year in Reading (from 58% to 59%) and Mathematics (from 83% to 84%). The state percentage was 60% in Reading and 84% in Mathematics.
- Science results were generally positive. In all three tested grades (5, 8, and 11), there was an increase in mean scale score and percent of students scoring at or above Achievement Level 3.

- The mean Writing score for Broward students was 4.0 for Grade 4, 4.3 for Grade 8, and 4.1 for Grade 10. These scores exceeded the state averages.
- In Writing, 96% of Broward Grade 4 students, 97% of Grade 8, and 95% of Grade 10 students scored a 3.0 or higher. In addition, 79% of Broward Grade 4 students, 83% of Grade 8, and 78% of Grade 10 students scored a 4.0 or higher. **Broward exceeded the state in the percent of students scoring 3.0 and above and the percent scoring 4.0 and above at each grade level tested.**

Broward FCAT Results in Reading and Mathematics

In general, the FCAT-SSS results reflect a trend of increasing performance in Reading and Mathematics in most grade levels. Table 1 summarizes BCPS student performance on the Reading subtest from 2008 to 2010. Examination of Table 1 reveals that the largest gain on the Reading portion of the FCAT-SSS occurred at grade 8, with an increase of 3 percentage points in the proportion of students scoring at Achievement Level 3 or higher from 2009 to 2010. Gains in Reading were demonstrated in grades 3, 6, 8, 9, and 10. When the FCAT-SSS Reading results are compared over the full three year period shown in Table 1, increases in student achievement are noted at every grade level except grade 3, where no change was observed over the three year period.

Table 2 presents the results of Broward student performance on the Mathematics subtest of the FCAT-SSS from 2008 to 2010. As Table 2 shows, the largest gains in SSS Mathematics occurred at grade 6, with a 3 percentage point increase in the proportion of students scoring at Achievement Level 3 or higher compared to 2009. Gains from the previous year were observed in grades 6, 8, 9, and 10. When the FCAT-SSS Mathematics results are compared over the three year period shown in the table, increases in student achievement are noted in grades 5, 6, 8, 9, and 10.

Table 1

Broward FCAT Reading Results, 2008 to 2010

Grade	Year	Mean Scale Score	Percent of Students in Each Achievement Level					3 or Higher
			1	2	3	4	5	
3	2008	312	16	12	35	30	7	72
	2009	313	17	12	33	31	8	71
	2010	315	16	12	33	31	8	72
4	2008	319	17	14	32	29	8	70
	2009	325	12	13	36	31	9	76
	2010	324	15	13	32	29	11	72
5	2008	305	17	17	34	26	6	66
	2009	314	14	14	33	30	9	72
	2010	311	14	15	33	28	9	70
6	2008	317	16	17	32	25	10	67
	2009	316	16	17	33	26	8	67
	2010	319	15	16	31	27	11	69

(table continues)

2010 FCAT Results for Grades 4-11

June 29, 2010

Page 3 of 7

Table 1 (continued).

Grade	Year	Mean Scale Score	Percent of Students in Each Achievement Level					3 or Higher
			1	2	3	4	5	
7	2008	319	15	18	34	24	8	67
	2009	323	13	17	35	26	9	70
	2010	324	15	17	32	25	12	68
8	2008	314	16	28	35	18	3	56
	2009	316	15	28	33	19	4	57
	2010	318	15	25	35	20	5	60
9	2008	314	25	28	27	14	6	47
	2009	316	22	32	27	13	7	46
	2010	318	20	32	28	13	7	48
10	2008	307	34	28	18	8	12	38
	2009	307	33	30	19	7	11	37
	2010	309	32	28	18	8	14	39

Table 2

Broward FCAT Mathematics Results, 2008 to 2010

Grade	Year	Mean Scale Score	Percent of Students in Each Achievement Level					3 or Higher
			1	2	3	4	5	
3	2008	341	8	12	33	31	17	80
	2009	343	9	12	30	31	19	80
	2010	342	8	11	32	31	18	80
4	2008	332	10	15	36	27	13	76
	2009	337	8	13	35	29	14	79
	2010	334	9	15	34	29	14	76
5	2008	341	12	21	26	29	12	67
	2009	344	11	20	25	30	13	69
	2010	343	11	21	26	30	12	68
6	2008	324	21	20	28	20	12	59
	2009	325	20	18	28	21	12	61
	2010	330	19	17	28	21	14	64
7	2008	323	15	19	32	21	12	65
	2009	323	15	18	31	23	12	67
	2010	320	18	18	30	23	12	65
8	2008	328	13	18	34	20	16	69
	2009	328	12	18	36	20	14	70
	2010	330	11	18	36	20	16	72
9	2008	313	13	19	32	25	11	68
	2009	316	11	19	32	26	13	70
	2010	318	10	18	32	26	13	72
10	2008	329	11	18	27	35	9	71
	2009	330	11	17	29	34	9	72
	2010	332	10	17	27	36	10	73

Graduation Requirements (Grade 10)

Table 3 summarizes the proportion of 10th grade students in Broward who scored at or above the passing score (scale score of 300 or higher) required by the State Board of Education for graduation from high school with a standard diploma.

Table 3

Broward 10th Grade FCAT Graduation Requirements, 2008 to 2010

Subject Area	School Year	Percent Passing	
		Broward	State
Reading	2008	57	57
	2009	58	57
	2010	59	60
Mathematics	2008	82	81
	2009	83	81
	2010	84	84

The percent of grade 10 students in Broward passing the Reading portion of the FCAT increased from 58% to 59% over the past year, while the statewide passing rate increased by 3 percentage points to 60% over the prior year. The grade 10 passing rate for Mathematics among Broward students increased from 83% to 84% over the past year, while the statewide passing rate increased by 3 percentage points to 84%. 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 and the proportions of students scoring at or above Achievement Level 3 increased in all three tested grade levels from 2009 to 2010.

Table 4

Broward FCAT Science Results, 2008 to 2010

Grade	Year	Mean Scale Score	Percent of Students in Each Achievement Level					3 or Higher
			1	2	3	4	5	
5	2008	308	25	33	31	8	3	42
	2009	314	22	33	33	10	3	45
	2010	317	19	33	34	10	3	48
8	2008	304	27	34	30	7	2	39
	2009	306	27	32	32	8	2	42
	2010	313	24	31	33	9	3	45
11	2008	302	31	34	29	5	1	35
	2009	301	32	32	29	6	1	35
	2010	305	29	34	30	5	1	36

Broward FCAT Results in Writing

The Writing test has undergone several changes for 2010. Previously, students would be prompted to respond in one of three styles: Expository, Narrative, or Persuasive. This year, all Grade 4 students were directed to write in Narrative style, all Grade 8 students in Expository style, and all Grade 10 students in Persuasive style.

The scoring process for the Writing test also changed in 2010. From the assessment's inception through 2009, student essays were scored by two raters. Each rater would individually score the essay on a scale of 1-6 points. If the raters assigned identical scores, that became the final score for the essay. If the raters assigned scores that differed by a single point, the average of those two scores became the final score for the essay. For example, if one rater scored an essay as 4 points, and a second rater scored the essay as 5 points, the final score of the essay was 4.5 points. Finally, if the scores assigned by the raters differed by more than one point, a third independent rater was brought in to mediate and determine the final score.

Beginning in 2010, owing primarily due to budgetary constraints, student essays were scored by only one rater. This means half-points are no longer possible. This presents an issue, because under the school grading formula, schools are held responsible for the proportion of their students scoring at 3.5 and above. In an attempt to mitigate this issue, the state will determine the mean between the percentage of students scoring at 3 or higher versus the percentage of students scoring at 4 or higher.

Due to the significant changes to both the type of prompts assessed and scoring methodologies, comparisons of 2010 Writing results to previous years is not appropriate. Current results are provided in Table 5. As shown, while the proportion of students scoring at 3 or higher is similar for Broward and the state, a far greater proportion of Broward students exceeded the statewide average of scoring a 4 or higher.

Table 5
*FCAT Writing Performance, 2010**

	Grade 4		Grade 8		Grade 10	
	3.0 and Above	4.0 and Above	3.0 and Above	4.0 and Above	3.0 and Above	4.0 and Above
Broward	96	79	97	83	95	78
State	94	68	96	76	94	72

*Writing is only reported for 2010 because FDOE changed the scoring process, making it inappropriate for comparisons with prior years.

Comparisons to Statewide Results and Other Large Districts in Florida

In general, students in Broward County continue to demonstrate achievement that meet or exceed the statewide averages and those of other large districts throughout the state. Table 6 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. In Mathematics, Broward students

performed better than students statewide at all grade levels except Grade 10, where performance was similar to the state.

In Reading, the percentage of Broward students scoring at Achievement Level 3 or higher equaled or exceeded the other large school districts in all grades except 7, 9, and 10 (only Palm Beach outperformed the state and all other large districts at these grade levels). 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 grades 7, 8, and 10 (Palm Beach outperformed the state and all other large districts at these grade levels).

On the Science test, students in Broward County demonstrated higher achievement than the state in grade 8, but were slightly lower in grade 11. Ranking within the largest five districts, Broward ranks second in grades 5 and 8 and fourth in grade 11 in Science. On the Writing test, Broward students displayed a markedly higher proportion of students scoring 4.0 and above than the state. In addition, Broward ranks first among the large districts in grade 4, and second in grades 8 and 10.

Table 6

FCAT-SSS Reading, Mathematics, Science, and Writing Results on the 2010 FCAT

District/State	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9	Grade 10
Reading (% Level 3 and above)								
State	72	72	69	67	68	55	48	39
Broward	72	72	70	69	68	60	48	39
Miami-Dade	68	70	66	62	64	51	42	37
Hillsborough	71	68	67	65	65	55	48	39
Orange	71	72	70	67	66	55	45	37
Palm Beach	68	72	70	68	71	58	51	45
Mathematics (% Level 3 and above)								
State	78	74	63	57	61	68	67	73
Broward	80	76	68	64	65	72	72	73
Miami-Dade	78	72	60	53	59	63	63	73
Hillsborough	76	73	63	57	62	67	66	72
Orange	75	73	62	56	60	66	62	69
Palm Beach	79	75	65	63	70	73	71	77
Science (% Level 3 and above)								
	Grade 5	Grade 8	Grade 11					
State	49	43	38					
Broward	48	45	36					
Miami-Dade	44	34	30					
Hillsborough	46	45	44					
Orange	47	39	37					
Palm Beach	54	50	46					
Writing (% essay score 4 and above)								
	Grade 4	Grade 8	Grade 10					
State	68	76	72					
Broward	79	83	78					
Miami-Dade	73	74	73					
Hillsborough	75	85	73					
Orange	63	71	69					
Palm Beach	70	80	79					

2010 FCAT Results for Grades 4-11

June 29, 2010

Page 7 of 7

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://fcat.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
Jody Perry, Director, Charter Schools Support
PTA
DAC