



SCHOOL DISTRICT  
PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA

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December 3, 2012

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** School Board Members

**FROM:** Janis Andrews  
Chief Academic Officer 

**THROUGH:** E. Wayne Gent  
Superintendent 

**SUBJECT: FY2012 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATES**

On November 30, 2012, the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) released graduation rates for the State of Florida, all districts including, the School District of Palm Beach County (SDPBC), and high schools. For FY2012, the FDOE accountability system changed from using the National Governors Association (NGA) rate to the Federal Graduation Rate, which is a more rigorous standard than the NGA rate. The Federal Graduation Rate is an adjusted cohort graduation rate, which includes standard diplomas but excludes GEDs, both regular and adult, and special diplomas. Detailed information about the Federal Graduation Rate is provided in Appendix A.

### Summary of Results

- From FY2008 to FY2012, the SDPBC
  - Increased the Federal Graduation Rate by 11.5% (from 65.5% to 77.0%)
  - Maintained a higher Federal Graduation Rate than that of Florida and the other large urban districts<sup>1</sup> for five consecutive years
- From FY2011-FY2012, the SDPBC
  - Increased the Federal Graduation Rate significantly for all students (2.7%) as well as for Black students (3.3%) and Hispanic students (2.4%)

<sup>1</sup> Florida school districts exceeding 150,000 students

Table 1 reports the graduation rates for the past five years (2008-2012) for Florida, the SDPBC and other large urban districts. Tables 2-4 show the FY2012 graduation rate data for Black, Hispanic, and White students. Tables 5 through 7 report graduation rates for comprehensive high schools, charter high schools, and alternative high schools, respectively.

Should you have questions about the graduation rates, please contact Mark Howard, Director of Research and Evaluation, at 561-434-8850. For information regarding SDPBC initiatives to increase graduation, please contact Keith Oswald, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Learning Support, at 561-357-1113. For questions regarding specific schools, contact the appropriate area superintendents or school principals.

EWG/JA/FR/MH

#### Attachments

cc: Division Chiefs  
Area/Assistant Superintendents  
Academic Directors  
Principals

Table 1. FY2008-2012 Federal Graduation Rate for Florida and Large Urban Districts\*

	<b>FY2008</b>	<b>FY2009</b>	<b>FY2010</b>	<b>FY2011</b>	<b>FY2012</b>
Florida	62.7%	65.5%	69.0%	70.6%	74.5%
<b>Palm Beach</b>	65.5%	70.1%	74.8%	74.3%	77.0%
Broward	64.3%	68.4%	72.4%	71.6%	76.4%
Dade	60.5%	62.0%	68.3%	71.3%	76.0%
Hillsborough	63.9%	66.1%	66.7%	69.3%	72.6%
Orange	61.9%	67.4%	71.8%	71.4%	73.9%

\*Florida school districts exceeding 150,000 students.

Table 2. FY2008 - FY2012 Federal Graduation Rate for Florida and SDPBC for Black Students

	<b>FY2008</b>	<b>FY2009</b>	<b>FY2010</b>	<b>FY2011</b>	<b>FY2012</b>
Florida	50.0%	53.7%	57.9%	58.6%	63.7%
SDPBC	49.8%	55.4%	62.4%	61.5%	64.8%

Table 3. FY2008 - FY2012 Federal Graduation Rate for Florida and SDPBC for Hispanic Students

	<b>FY2008</b>	<b>FY2009</b>	<b>FY2010</b>	<b>FY2011</b>	<b>FY2012</b>
Florida	59.8%	63.4%	68.1%	69.4%	72.9%
SDPBC	59.0%	66.7%	72.7%	69.8%	72.2%

Table 4. FY2008 - FY2012 Federal Graduation Rate for Florida and SDPBC for White Students

	<b>FY2008</b>	<b>FY2009</b>	<b>FY2010</b>	<b>FY2011</b>	<b>FY2012</b>
Florida	69.2%	71.2%	74.1%	76.2%	79.4%
SDPBC	76.8%	80.3%	83.9%	85.3%	86.6%

Table 5. Federal Graduation Rates for SDPBC Comprehensive High Schools

	FY2011	FY2012
AW Dreyfoos School of Arts	99.1	100.0
Atlantic High	83.6	86.2
Boca Raton High	85.8	89.6
Boynton Beach Comm High	65.5	74.7
Forest Hill High	74.7	68.6
Glades Central High	65.5	76.1
John I Leonard High	69.3	72.7
Jupiter High	87.7	88.6
Lake Worth High	69.8	70.7
Olympic Heights High	82.9	81.5
Pahokee Middle/Senior High	72.0	75.0
Palm Beach Central High	91.1	91.3
Palm Beach Gardens High	75.3	77.5
Palm Beach Lakes High	63.4	64.9
Park Vista Comm High	89.1	89.7
Royal Palm Beach High	70.9	74.9
Santaluces High	75.9	77.8
Seminole Ridge Comm High	82.2	83.7
Spanish River High	91.9	94.5
Suncoast High	99.7	100.0
Village Acad Ctr	77.8	86.8
Wellington High	83.2	86.2
West Boca Raton Comm High	87.1	86.9
WT Dwyer High	80.9	84.3

**Table 6. Federal Graduation Rates for SDPBC Charter High Schools**

	FY2011	FY2012
Believers Acad	0.0	0.0
Delray Youth Voc Charter	0.0	0.0
Ed Venture Charter	0.0	0.0
Everglades Preparatory Acad	16.7	20.0
G-Star	91.5	96.1
Gulfstream LIFE Acad	*	*
Inlet Grove High	82.8	92.1
Leadership Acad West	57.1	65.6
Life Skills Ctr PBC	1.6	1.0
Mavericks High of Palm Springs	*	10.1
Renaissance Learning Acad	*	*
Riviera Beach Maritime Acad	81.8	79.3
Seagull Acad	0.0	*
South Tech Academy	86.7	88.0
Toussaint L'Ouverture High	2.5	3.9

\* indicates no data reported or less than 10 students in cohort

**Table 7. Federal Graduation Rates for SDPBC Alternative High Schools**

	FY2011	FY2012
Alternative Program Central	*	0.0
Alternative Program North	16.7	*
Amikids Palm Beach	*	*
Crossroads Acad	12.2	21.4
Drop Back In Acad of PBC	2.1	1.4
Florida Virtual Franchise	84.2	96.2
Gold Coast Comm	0.0	0.0
Indian Ridge	*	20.0
Intensive Trans South	7.1	25.0
Pace Ctr For Girls	*	*
Palm Beach County Jail	0.0	1.3
Palm Beach Juvenile Correction	*	5.9
PB Reg Juv Detention Ctr	0.0	0.0
Riviera Beach Prep	7.8	13.0
Royal Palm (ESE)	0.0	0.0
Turning Points Acad	8.0	4.8

\* indicates no data reported or less than 10 students in cohort

## Appendix A: Federal Uniform Graduation Rate

### Florida's Change to Reporting the Federal Graduation Rate

In October 2008, the U.S. Department of Education (USDOE) issued new directives for graduation rates. These new regulations require each state to calculate a four-year adjusted cohort rate, which follows students for four years after entering the ninth-grade for the first time. The USDOE adopted this calculation method in an effort to streamline graduation rate calculations and establish uniform, accurate, and comparable rates across all states.

Starting with FY2012, the school grade accountability system for the State of Florida changed from using the National Governors Association (NGA) rate to the Federal Graduation Rate. The Federal rate represents a higher standard than the NGA rate. Differences between the NGA rate and the Federal rate are described below.

		DENOMINATOR (Adjusted Cohort)	
	<b>Cohort Adjustments</b> (Students Removed from the Denominator)	<b>Graduates</b> (On-Time Graduates from the Denominator)	<b>Non-Graduates</b> (All Non-Graduates Remaining in the Denominator)
<b>NGA Rate</b> (Used for school years 2009-10 and 2010-11)	Transfers to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Other public high schools (including DJJs) or private high schools</li> <li>- Home-education programs</li> <li>- Adult-education programs*</li> <li>- Deceased students</li> </ul> *Adult-Ed GED diploma recipients are also classified as adult-education transfers for the NGA rate and are removed from the cohort.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Standard diploma recipients</li> <li>- Special diploma recipients</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dropouts</li> <li>- Certificate recipients</li> <li>- HS Exit Option GED* diploma recipients</li> <li>- Continuing enrollees who are not on-time graduates</li> </ul> * Adult-Ed GED diploma recipients are classified as adult-education transfers and removed from the cohort (they are not non-grads here).
<b>Federal Uniform Rate</b> (Used for school years 2011-12 and beyond)	Transfers to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Other public or private high schools (not including DJJs)</li> <li>- Home-education programs</li> <li>- Deceased students</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Standard diploma recipients</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dropouts</li> <li>- Certificate recipients</li> <li>- GED diploma recipients</li> <li>- Special diploma recipients</li> <li>- Continuing enrollees who are not on-time graduates,</li> <li>- Transfers to adult education programs or DJJ centers who are not standard diploma recipients</li> </ul>