



**THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
PALM BEACH COUNTY, FL**

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**MARK HOWARD
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MEMORANDUM

January 10, 2018

TO: School Board Members
FROM: Mark Howard, Chief, Performance Accountability
David W. Christiansen, Ed.D., Deputy Superintendent/Chief of Schools
SUBJECT: FY17 FEDERAL HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATES

On January 10, 2018, the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) released graduation rates for the State of Florida and the School District of Palm Beach County (SDPBC). The Federal High School Graduation Rate includes standard diplomas but excludes special diplomas and GEDs (General Education Diplomas).¹

The SDPBC has identified Graduation as a Long Term Outcome as part of the five-year Strategic Plan. In 2016, the Board established a goal of a 90% graduation rate for District operated students by the year 2021. For additional information on the District Strategic Plan, visit: <https://www.palmbeachschools.org/strategicplan/>

Summary of Results

In FY17, SDPBC outperformed Florida and six other large urban school districts for the fourth consecutive year (FY14-FY17), and has consistently increased the graduation rate, including from FY16 to FY17. More importantly, the disparity between White students and their Black and Hispanic peers was reduced as Black and Hispanic students demonstrated greater increases with Black students increasing 10 points over the last two years and Hispanic students increasing 6.6 points over the last two years.

From FY16 to FY17, the SDPBC

- Increased the overall District graduation rate (includes both District operated² and charter school students) from 82.3% to 85.0%
- Increased graduation rates for District operated school students (88.3% to 90.0%) , while Charter operated school students³ increased from (39.4% to 49.6%)
- Increased the graduation rate for Black students by 5.4 percentage points (73.7% to 79.1%), for Hispanic students by 3.4% (79.5% to 82.9%)
- 19 District operated schools reported graduation rates equal to or exceeding 90%
- Among District operated High Schools, Riviera Beach Preparatory Academy had the largest increase (14.7), followed by Pahokee Middle-Senior and Glades Central High schools (9.8 and 9.1 respectively). In addition, Lake Worth, Palm Beach Gardens and John I. Leonard each increased more than 5 points.

¹ Detailed information about the Federal High School Graduation Rate is provided in Appendix A.

² Includes students who also attended Alternative and DJJ school sites.

³ Both District operated school and charter school students are required to meet the Florida *Standard Diploma* requirements.

From FY13 to FY17, the SDPBC

- Increased the District graduation rate by 8.7 percentage points (from 76.3% to 85%), which includes both District operated and charter school students
- Increased the graduation rate for Black students by 15.3%, for Hispanic students by 7.9%, and for White students by 5.4%.

Table 1 reports the graduation rates for the past five years (FY13 – FY17) for Florida, the SDPBC, and the other large urban school districts. Tables 2 – 4 show the graduation rates for the past five years (FY13 – FY17) for Black, Hispanic, and White students. Table 5 reports the graduation rates for the past five years (FY13 – FY17) for SDPBC District operated and charter schools. Tables 6, 7 and 8 report graduation rates for District operated high schools, charter high schools, and alternative high schools, respectively, for five years (FY13 – FY17).

It should be noted that the FDOE is currently conducting a study to increase the concordant (SAT, ACT) score for students who did not pass the required Florida Standards Assessment (FSA) on their first attempt. This could significantly impact students currently enrolled and on track for graduation but needing to meet the assessment requirement.

If you have questions about graduation rates, please contact Mark Howard, Chief of Performance Accountability, at 434-8850. For information regarding SDPBC initiatives to increase graduation, please contact Dr. David W. Christiansen, at 649-6888, Deputy Superintendent/Chief of Schools. For questions regarding specific schools, contact the appropriate regional/instructional superintendent.

Next Steps for Schools:

Using the Executive Summary and the [Graduation Rate Analysis Tool⁴](#), reflect on the following questions:

1. How does our overall rate compare to the prior year? The last five years? What trends do you see?
2. Are there differences between groups of students by race/ethnicity or gender?
3. Which of the “W” (withdrawal) codes had the greatest increase, decrease?
4. What percentage of students compared to the prior year are Non-graduates, Dropouts? Why?
5. Did the percentage of graduates who met the assessment requirement with a concordant score increase or decrease? Which students? Why? How can we better support them?
6. Did the percentage of Non-graduates who did not meet the credit or GPA requirement increase or decrease? Why? Which Students? How can we better support them?

RMA/DWC/MH/PH/RP/BS:wI

Attachments

c: Academic and Operating Chiefs
Regional/Instructional Superintendents
Academic Directors
Principals

⁴ The Graduation Rate Analysis Tools will be updated with current year data as of Monday, January 15, 2018.

Table 1. FY13-FY17 Federal Graduation Rate for Florida and Large Urban Districts*

	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17
Florida	75.6%	76.1%	77.8%	80.7%	82.3%
Palm Beach	76.3%	77.9%	79.4%	82.3%	85.0%
Broward	75.3%	74.2%	76.6%	78.7%	81.0%
Dade	77.2%	76.6%	78.1%	80.4%	80.7%
Duval	72.1%	74.0%	76.6%	78.8%	80.8%
Hillsborough	74.1%	73.5%	76.0%	79.1%	82.9%
Orange	75.9%	74.6%	77.6%	81.3%	84.7%
Pinellas	71.9%	76.2%	78.3%	80.1%	82.9%

*Florida school districts exceeding 100,000 students.

Table 2. FY13-FY17 Federal Graduation Rate for Florida and SDPBC for Black Students

	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17
Florida	64.6%	64.7%	67.9%	72.3%	74.8%
SDPBC	63.8%	64.8%	69.1%	73.7%	79.1%

Table 3. FY13-FY17 Federal Graduation Rate for Florida and SDPBC for Hispanic Students

	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17
Florida	74.9%	75.0%	76.7%	79.5%	81.3%
SDPBC	75.0%	76.7%	76.3%	79.5%	82.9%

Table 4. FY13-FY17 Federal Graduation Rate for Florida and SDPBC for White Students

	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17
Florida	80.5%	81.7%	82.7%	85.1%	86.2%
SDPBC	85.5%	87.8%	88.5%	90.7%	90.9%

Table 5. FY13-FY17 Federal Graduation Rate for SDPBC District Operated and Charter Students

	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17
SDPBC District Operated	81.6%	84.3%	85.3%	88.3%	90.0%
SDPBC Charter	37.3%	36.0%	40.3%	39.4%	49.6%

Table 6. FY13-FY17 Federal Graduation Rates for SDPBC District Operated High Schools

Region	School#	School	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	1 Year Change
C	0581	FOREST HILL HIGH	79.2	77.2	83.0	87.3	89.3	2.0
C	1361	JOHN I. LEONARD HIGH	74.2	76.6	78.7	88.5	94.0	5.5
C	0691	LAKE WORTH HIGH	76.5	73.3	78.9	74.9	82.0	7.1
C	2631	PALM BEACH CENTRAL HIGH	91.5	90.4	91.3	91.6	93.9	2.3
C	2331	ROYAL PALM BEACH HIGH	76.0	77.2	82.8	88.4	90.9	2.5
C	2191	WELLINGTON HIGH	82.4	88.7	89.0	91.9	91.9	0.0
G	2301	GLADES CENTRAL HIGH	71.1	70.3	64.8	75.1	84.2	9.1
G	1771	PAHOKEE MIDDLE - SR. HIGH	74.3	89.6	85.5	82.4	92.2	9.8
N	0395	A W DREYFOOS SCHOOL OF ARTS	99.4	99.4	100.0	100.0	99.1	-0.9
N	2411	INDIAN RIDGE SCHOOL	26.7	20.0	NR	0.0	50.0	50.0
N	0081	JUPITER HIGH	88.5	90.2	92.5	92.6	92.9	0.3
N	1371	PALM BEACH GARDENS HIGH	80.4	83.0	81.7	87.7	93.4	5.7
N	1851	PALM BEACH LAKES HIGH	67.5	67.7	72.0	82.2	82.8	0.6
N	3861	SEMINOLE RIDGE COMMUNITY HIGH	82.7	87.5	88.1	92.0	86.5	-5.5
N	0151	SUNCOAST HIGH	100.0	99.2	99.4	100.0	100.0	0.0
N	2201	WILLIAM T. DWYER HIGH	82.1	89.2	90.8	91.0	91.0	0.0
S	0862	ATLANTIC HIGH	85.7	90.0	92.2	91.7	91.5	-0.2
S	0961	BOCA RATON HIGH	91.0	93.9	91.8	91.9	93.8	1.9
S	2361	BOYNTON BCH COMMUNITY HIGH	77.3	78.3	80.4	85.0	86.1	1.1
S	2181	OLYMPIC HEIGHTS HIGH	86.9	89.1	92.8	94.5	95.8	1.3
S	2001	PARK VISTA COMMUNITY HIGH	92.2	89.6	92.8	93.9	95.2	1.3
S	1801	ROYAL PALM CENTER	0.0	11.1	0.0	0.0	28.6	28.6
S	1611	SANTALUCES HIGH	78.3	83.2	84.1	88.1	92.0	3.9
S	1681	SPANISH RIVER HIGH	90.9	93.7	90.4	93.9	95.6	1.7
S	2811	VILLAGE ACADEMY CENTER	89.7	85.7	94.4	97.2	100.0	2.8
S	3251	WEST BOCA RATON HIGH	87.7	86.5	85.7	92.3	94.3	2.0
V	7004	PALM BEACH VIRTUAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	93.1	-6.9

NR = Not Reported by FDOE. NA = Not available.

Table 7. FY13-FY17 Federal Graduation Rates for SDPBC Charter High Schools

Region	School#	School	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	1 Year Change
Chtr	3400	BELIEVERS ACADEMY	0.0	0.0	5.6	3.7	20.7	17.0
Chtr	2521	ED VENTURE CHARTER SCHOOL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.0	8.0
Chtr	3398	EVERGLADES PREPARATORY ACADEMY	34.0	23.3	28.3	25.0	43.5	18.5
Chtr	4081	FLORIDA FUTURES ACADEMY NORTH	NA	NA	NA	4.3	2.4	-1.9
Chtr	3396	G-STAR	93.3	96.7	95.9	98.3	97.1	-1.2
Chtr	1461	INLET GROVE COMMUNITY HIGH	86.3	86.6	83.6	92.4	97.4	5.0
Chtr	3971	MAVERICKS HS AT PALM SPRINGS	5.8	12.0	13.0	10.7	10.5	-0.2
Chtr	3924	PB MARITIME ACADEMY HIGH	NA	NA	NA	NR	83.3	
Chtr	3401	QUANTUM HIGH SCHOOL	5.5	8.5	5.7	10.7	11.4	0.7
Chtr	3083	RENAISSANCE LEARNING ACADEMY	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.0	5.0
Chtr	3443	RIVIERA BEACH MARITIME ACADEMY	81.6	90.0	89.8	95.6	91.7	-3.9
Chtr	4013	SOMERSET ACAD CANYONS HIGH	NA	NA	NA	NA	95.5	
Chtr	1571	SOUTH TECH ACADEMY	89.6	92.8	94.8	95.8	93.5	-2.3
Chtr	3386	TOUSSAINT L'OUVERTURE HIGH	0.0	1.9	5.7	3.4	3.0	-0.4
Chtr	3421	WORTHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL	4.0	5.1	3.3	3.4	8.8	5.4

NR = Not Reported by FDOE. NA = Not available.

Table 8. FY13-2017 Federal Graduation Rates for SDPBC Alternative High Schools

Region	School#	School	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	1 Year Change
Alt	3423	ACCELERATION ACADEMY	NA	NA	NA	NA	3.3	
Alt	3039	ALTERNATIVE PROGRAM CENTRAL	NR	NR	NR	NR	0.0	
Alt	3014	ALTERNATIVE PROGRAM NORTH	NR	0.0	NR	NR	NR	
Alt	4101	CATAPULT ACADEMY	NA	NA	NA	NA	8.6	
Alt	3101	CROSSROADS ACADEMY	14.5	18.8	16.5	36.8	41.4	4.6
Alt	1641	GOLD COAST COMMUNITY SCHOOL	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	
Alt	3024	HIGH RIDGE	NR	NR	NA	NR	NR	
Alt	3010	PACE CENTER FOR GIRLS	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	
Alt	3354	PALM BEACH JUVENILE CORRECTION	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	
Alt	3355	RIVIERA BEACH PREP & ACHIEVE	26.1	19.4	22.4	33.6	48.3	14.7
Alt	3046	SOUTH INTENSIVE TRANSITION SCH	10.0	14.3	15.0	NR	NR	
Alt	0842	TURNING POINTS ACADEMY	6.7	0.0	19.0	14.3	9.1	-5.2

NR = Not Reported by FDOE. NA = Not available.

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 FY12, 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)	
	Cohort Adjustments (Students Removed from the Denominator)	Graduates (On-Time Graduates from the Denominator)	Non-Graduates (All Non-Graduates Remaining in the Denominator)
NGA Rate (Used for school years 2009-10 and 2010-11)	Transfers to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Other public high schools (including DJJs) or private high schools - Home-education programs - Adult-education programs* - Deceased students *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"> - Standard diploma recipients - Special diploma recipients 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dropouts - Certificate recipients - HS Exit Option GED* diploma recipients - Continuing enrollees who are not on-time graduates * Adult-Ed GED diploma recipients are classified as adult-education transfers and removed from the cohort (they are not non-grads here).
Federal Uniform Rate (Used for school years 2011-12 and beyond)	Transfers to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Other public or private high schools (not including DJJs) - Home-education programs - Deceased students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Standard diploma recipients 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dropouts - Certificate recipients - GED diploma recipients - Special diploma recipients - Continuing enrollees who are not on-time graduates, - Transfers to adult education programs or DJJ centers who are not standard diploma recipients