



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

**PAUL HOUCHENS
DIRECTOR**

**KEITH OSWALD
DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT/CHIEF OF SCHOOLS**

RESEARCH & EVALUATION
3300 FOREST HILL BOULEVARD, B-246
WEST PALM BEACH, FL 33406

**GLEND A SHEFFIELD, Ed.D.
CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER**

PHONE: 561-434-8469 / FAX: 561-357-7611

**MARK HOWARD
CHIEF OF PERFORMANCE ACCOUNTABILITY**

WWW.PALMBEACHSCHOOLS.ORG

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

January 7, 2021

TO: School Board Members

FROM: Donald E. Fenno y II, Ed.D., Superintendent
Keith Oswald, Deputy Superintendent/Chief of Schools
Glenda Sheffield, Ed.D., Chief Academic Officer
Mark Howard, Chief, Performance Accountability

SUBJECT: FY20 FEDERAL HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATES

On January 7, 2020, the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) released high school graduation rates for the State of Florida and the School District of Palm Beach County (District). The FY20 Federal High School Graduation Rate includes standard diplomas but excludes special diplomas and GEDs (General Education Diplomas). Students with Disabilities (SWD) on Access Points curriculum are working to earn a standard diploma and are included as graduates, if successful.¹ It should be noted that due to COVID-19, assessment requirements for graduation were waived for FY20 seniors who had yet to meet them. This fact should be kept in mind when comparing the FY20 graduation rates with prior years.

The District 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 FY20, District outperformed Florida and four other large urban school districts by maintaining a stable graduation rate from FY19 to FY20. District operated high schools exceeded the Board's Strategic Plan goal of 90% by posting a graduation rate of 91.6%.

From FY19 to FY20, the District:

- Increased the overall District graduation rate (including both District operated² and Charter Schools) from 87.1% to 90.2%,
- Continued higher graduation rates for District operated schools from 91.6% to 94.4% compared to Charter Schools³ from 52.6% to 57.1,
- Increased the graduation rate for all student subgroups, with the largest increase for English Language Learners (ELL) students by 11.5 percentage points (68.7% to 80.2%),
- 22 District operated high schools (91.7%) and Palm Beach Virtual School reported graduation rates equal to or exceeding 90%, and

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. Less than 1% increase/decrease is considered as stable.

- Among District operated schools, Village Academy had the largest increase (18.7 percentage points), followed by Lake Worth High (12.3 percentage points), Palm Beach Gardens High (6.3 percentage points) and Palm Beach Lakes High (4.7 percentage points).

From FY16 to FY20, the District:

- Increased the District graduation rate by 7.9% (from 82.3% to 90.2%), which includes both District operated and Charter school students,
- Increased graduation rate for all student subgroups with the largest increase among ELL students (23.5 percentage points), followed by Students with Disabilities (SWD) students (16.2 percentage points), and Free or Reduced Lunch (FRL) students (11.5 percentage points),
- Increased the graduation rates for Black students by 14.9 percentage points, for Hispanic students by 8.1 percentage points, and for White students by 3.6 percentage points, and
- Increased the District graduation rate by 6.1 percentage points for District operated schools and by 17.7 percentage points for Charter schools.

Table 1 reports the graduation rates for the five years (FY16 – FY20) for Florida, the District, and the other large urban school districts. Table 2 shows the graduation rates for the five years (FY16 – FY20) for Black, Hispanic, White, ELL, FRL, and SWD students. Table 3 reports the graduation rates for the five years (FY16 – FY20) for District operated and Charter schools. Tables 4 - 6 report graduation rates for District operated high schools, Charter high schools, and Alternative high schools, respectively, for five years (FY16 – FY20).

If you have questions about graduation rates, please contact Mark Howard, Chief of Performance Accountability, at 561-434-8851. For information regarding District initiatives to increase graduation rates, please contact Dr. Glenda Sheffield, Chief Academic Officer, at 561-434-8616. For questions regarding specific schools, contact the appropriate Regional/Instructional Superintendent.

Next Steps for Schools:

Using the Executive Summary and the Graduation Rate Analysis Tool (anticipated availability by January 6, 2021), 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 or 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?
7. What are we doing to monitor students beginning in the ninth grade and tracking them to graduation?
8. The FY22 graduation cohort will be the first to apply the higher concordant scores established by FLDOE. Schools must monitor closely students to ensure they meet the new higher requirement.

DEF/KO/GS/MH/PH:wI

Attachments

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

Table 1. FY16-FY20 Federal Graduation Rate for Florida and Large Urban Districts

	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	1-Year Change	5-Year Change
Florida	80.7%	82.3%	86.1%	86.9%	90.0%	3.1%	9.3%
Palm Beach	82.3%	85.0%	87.2%	87.1%	90.2%	3.1%	7.9%
Broward	78.7%	81.0%	84.3%	86.2%	89.4%	3.2%	10.7%
Dade	80.4%	80.7%	85.4%	85.6%	89.6%	4.0%	9.2%
Duval	78.8%	80.8%	85.1%	86.5%	90.2%	3.7%	11.4%
Hillsborough	79.1%	82.9%	85.8%	86.2%	88.8%	2.6%	9.7%
Orange	81.3%	84.7%	88.9%	88.4%	90.4%	2.0%	9.1%
Pinellas	80.1%	82.9%	86.0%	88.4%	91.5%	3.1%	11.4%

Table 2. FY16-FY20 Federal Graduation Rate for Florida and Palm Beach by Student Subgroup

	Subgroup	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	1-Year Change	5-Year Change
Florida	Black	72.3%	74.8%	80.9%	81.5%	86.6%	5.1%	14.3%
	Hispanic	79.5%	81.3%	85.1%	85.9%	89.5%	3.6%	10.0%
	White	85.1%	86.2%	89.0%	90.2%	91.7%	1.5%	6.6%
	ELL	62.0%	67.3%	75.0%	75.0%	85.7%	10.7%	23.7%
	FRL	74.4%	76.8%	82.0%	82.9%	86.9%	4.0%	12.5%
	SWD	61.6%	66.0%	77.0%	80.6%	82.6%	2.0%	21.0%
Palm Beach	Black	73.7%	79.1%	82.9%	83.6%	88.6%	5.0%	14.9%
	Hispanic	79.5%	82.9%	84.7%	84.9%	87.6%	2.7%	8.1%
	White	90.7%	90.9%	93.2%	93.0%	94.3%	1.3%	3.6%
	ELL	56.7%	67.0%	71.8%	68.7%	80.2%	11.5%	23.5%
	FRL	75.9%	80.0%	83.1%	82.7%	87.4%	4.7%	11.5%
	SWD	68.9%	71.2%	79.2%	82.6%	85.1%	2.5%	16.2%

Table 3. FY16-FY20 Federal Graduation Rate for Palm Beach District Operated and Charter Students*

	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	1-Year Change	5-Year Change
District Operated Schools	88.3%	90.0%	91.7%	91.6%	94.4%	2.8%	6.1%
Charter Schools	39.4%	49.6%	51.7%	52.6%	57.1%	4.5%	17.7%

* Estimated from School level Graduation Data

Table 4. FY16-FY20 Federal Graduation Rates for Palm Beach District Operated High Schools

Region	School#	School	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	1-Year Change	5-Year Change
C	581	FOREST HILL COMMUNITY HIGH	87.3	89.3	90.1	91.6	90.1	-1.5	2.8
C	1361	JOHN I. LEONARD HIGH	88.5	94.0	93.0	91.7	93.8	2.1	5.3
C	691	LAKE WORTH HIGH	74.9	82.0	84.1	78.8	91.1	12.3	16.2
C	2631	PALM BEACH CENTRAL HIGH	91.6	93.9	95.4	95.9	97.6	1.7	6.0
C	2331	ROYAL PALM BEACH HIGH	88.4	90.9	92.8	91.5	93.8	2.3	5.4
C	2191	WELLINGTON HIGH	91.9	91.9	93.6	92.3	94.9	2.6	3.0
G	2301	GLADES CENTRAL HIGH	75.1	84.2	86.9	91.2	94.2	3.0	19.1
G	1771	PAHOKEE MIDDLE-SENIOR HIGH	82.4	92.2	95.3	95.5	98.3	2.8	15.9
N	395	ALEXANDER W DREYFOOS JR	100.0	99.1	100.0	99.7	100.0	0.3	0.0
N	81	JUPITER HIGH	92.6	92.9	95.4	92.8	94.6	1.8	2.0
N	1371	PALM BEACH GARDENS HIGH	87.7	93.4	92.0	90.4	96.7	6.3	9.0
N	1851	PALM BEACH LAKES HIGH	82.2	82.8	87.4	83.1	87.8	4.7	5.6
N	3861	SEMINOLE RIDGE COMM. HIGH	92.0	86.5	90.3	91.7	91.6	-0.1	-0.4
N	151	SUNCOAST COMMUNITY HIGH	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	99.5	-0.5	-0.5
N	2201	WILLIAM T. DWYER HIGH	91.0	91.0	92.3	91.1	91.9	0.8	0.9
S	862	ATLANTIC HIGH	91.7	91.5	95.7	93.9	96.8	2.9	5.1
S	961	BOCA RATON COMMUNITY HIGH	91.9	93.8	93.1	96.1	98.0	1.9	6.1
S	2361	BOYNTON BEACH COMM. HIGH	85.0	86.1	86.5	85.7	88.4	2.7	3.4
S	2181	OLYMPIC HEIGHTS COMM. HIGH	94.5	95.8	99.2	98.5	99.6	1.1	5.1
S	2001	PARK VISTA COMMUNITY HIGH	93.9	95.2	98.8	98.8	98.7	-0.1	4.8
S	1611	SANTALUCES COMMUNITY HIGH	88.1	92.0	90.4	93.6	95.8	2.2	7.7
S	1681	SPANISH RIVER COMM. HIGH	93.9	95.6	97.5	97.7	100.0	2.3	6.1
S	2811	VILLAGE ACADEMY CENTER	97.2	100.0	100.0	81.3	100.0	18.7	2.8
S	3251	WEST BOCA RATON HIGH	92.3	94.3	96.1	96.9	98.1	1.2	5.8

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: FY20 FEDERAL HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE

Table 5. FY16-FY20 Federal Graduation Rates for Palm Beach Charter Schools

Region	School#	School	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	1 Year Change	5 Year Change
CH	3400	BELIEVERS ACADEMY	3.7	20.7	44.4	48.0	47.8	-0.2	44.1
CH	2521	ED VENTURE CHARTER	NR	8.0	9.1	37.5	33.3	-4.2	NR
CH	3398	EVERGLADES PREP. ACADEMY	25.0	43.5	22.2	44.7	86.4	41.7	61.4
CH	4081	FLORIDA FUTURES ACADEMY- NORTH	4.3	2.4	1.9	6.1	3.1	-3.0	-1.2
CH	3396	G-STAR	98.3	97.1	97.3	95.3	94.7	-0.6	-3.6
CH	1461	INLET GROVE COMMUNITY HIGH	92.4	97.4	96.3	90.8	98.2	7.4	5.8
CH	3971	MAVERICKS HS AT PALM SPRINGS	10.7	10.5	12.5	10.2	6.3	-3.9	-4.4
CH	3924	PALM BEACH MARITIME ACADEMY	NR	83.3	76.2	91.2	100.0	8.8	NR
CH	2941	PALM BEACH SCHOOL FOR AUTISM	NR	NR	NR	100.0	100.0	0.0	NR
CH	3401	QUANTUM HIGH	10.7	11.4	14.0	22.8	22.6	-0.2	11.9
CH	3391	SEAGULL ACADEMY	NR	NR	70.0	NR	NR	NR	NR
CH	4013	SOMERSET ACADEMY CANYONS HIGH	NR	95.5	99.2	91.8	95.0	3.2	NR
CH	1571	SOUTH TECH ACADEMY	95.8	93.5	97.8	97.9	96.3	-1.6	0.5
CH	3083	LEARNING ACADEMY ELS CENTER	NR	5.0	45.0	57.1	61.5	4.4	NR
CH	3386	TOUSSAINT L'OUVERTURE HIGH	3.4	3.0	1.4	0.0	13.5	13.5	10.1
CH	3421	WORTHINGTON HIGH	3.4	8.8	12.4	14.6	12.5	-2.1	9.1

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

Table 6. FY16-FY20 Federal Graduation Rates for Palm Beach Alternative Schools

Region	School#	School	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	1 Year Change	5 Years Change
AL	3423	ACCELERATION ACADEMY	NR	3.3	NR	NR	0.0	NR	NR
AL	3039	ALT. PROGRAM CENTRAL	NR	NR	14.3	18.2	10.0	-8.2	NR
AL	4101	CATAPULT ACADEMY	NR	8.6	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
AL	3101	CROSSROADS ACADEMY	36.8	41.4	31.1	58.1	42.9	-15.2	6.1
AL	3024	HIGHRIDGE FAMILY CENTER	NR	NR	NR	NR	NA	NR	NR
DJ	3010	PACE CENTER FOR GIRLS	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
DJ	3002	PALM BEACH COUNTY JAIL	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
DJ	3354	PB JUVENILE CORRECTIONAL	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
DJ	3006	PB REGIONAL DETENTION CNTR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
AL	3355	RIVIERA BEACH PREP & ACHIEVE	33.6	48.3	47.1	50.8	70.5	19.7	36.9
AL	3046	SOUTH INTENSIVE TRANSITION	NR	NR	NR	NR	25.0	NR	NR
AL	842	TURNING POINTS ACADEMY	14.3	9.1	17.2	15.0	39.1	24.1	24.8
ES	2411	INDIAN RIDGE	0.0	50.0	41.7	50.0	NR	NR	NR
ES	1801	ROYAL PALM	0.0	28.6	6.3	52.6	70.6	18.0	70.6
VS	7004	PALM BEACH VIRTUAL	100.0	93.1	100.0	97.1	98.1	1.0	-1.9

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