THE SCHOOL DISTRICT
OF PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Arthur C. Johnson, Ph.D.
            Superintendent

FROM: Marc Baron, Chief
            Performance Accountability

THROUGH: Ann Killets
            Chief Academic Officer

DATE: February 19, 2007

SUBJECT: **GRADUATION RATE**

Attached are three tables related to graduation rate within the School District of Palm Beach County (SDPBC):

1. Table 1 reports the FY2003[1] graduation rate, the expenditure per student, and key student demographic characteristics of the 25 largest districts within the United States. The list is sorted by graduation rate.

2. Table 2 reports the results of progress made by SDPBC student groups in increasing the graduation rate from FY2002 to FY2006.

3. Table 3 reports the extent of gap closures in SDPBC graduation rates between traditionally lower performing students and their higher performing counterparts from FY2002 to FY2006.

Summary of the Attached Tables Related to Graduation Rate in SDPBC

1. In FY2003, SDPBC was ranked eighth of the 25 largest districts in graduation rate and sixteenth in the expenditure per student (see Table 1).

2. From FY2002 to FY2006 the graduation rate among all students as a group, White students, students in the free or reduced lunch program, and ESE students has increased statistically. However, the graduation rate among Black, Hispanic, and LEP students has not increased statistically (See Table 2).

3. From FY2002 to FY2006, the gap between the graduation rate of all traditionally lower performing student groups and their higher performing counterparts has not closed statistically. In fact, the gap between LEP students and non-LEP students has widened (See Table 3).

AK:MB:DS:jl

Attachments

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[1] The most recent data reported by the National Center for Education Statistics.
Q:\R&D\Graduation Rate\FY2007\graduation rate memorandumv2.doc

Palm Beach County Schools – Rated "A" by the Florida Department of Education 2005 & 2006
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Table 1. Largest 25 National School Districts Ranked by FY2003 Graduation Rate

District Name	State	Number of Students	Graduation Rate	Expenditure Per Student	% White	% Black	% Hispanic	% F/R Lunch	% English Language Learners	% Students with Disabilities
Fairfax County Public Schools	VA	164235	90.9	9488	55.1	11.2	15.8	19.0	16.4	14.1
Montgomery County Public Schools	MD	139201	87.0	10580	44.6	22.1	18.7	22.6	8.5	12.0
Wake County Schools	NC	109424	85.7	6695	58.3	29.9	7.3	27.0	7.0	15.0
Prince Georges County Public Schools	MD	137285	77.6	8621	8.0	77.6	10.8	44.9	5.4	10.2
Gwinnett County School District	GA	129014	75.2	7545	52.7	21.4	16.0	30.8	10.6	11.5
Hawaii Department of Education	HI	183609	71.3	8016	20.2	2.4	4.5	42.5	7.0	12.3
Puerto Rico Department of Education	PR	584916	68.2	4459	0.0	0.0	100.0	79.8	nr	13.3
Palm Beach County School District	FL	170260	67.8	6983	46.3	29.7	21.1	43.4	11.5	14.9
Broward County School District	FL	272835	67.7	6239	36.3	36.8	23.5	40.3	10.9	11.4
San Diego City Unified	CA	137960	67.6	8482	25.9	14.5	41.9	50.9	28.1	12.5
Hillsborough County School District	FL	181900	67.3	6411	48.7	23.6	25.0	50.0	10.4	15.7
Orange County School District	FL	165992	67.0	6358	40.3	28.5	26.9	41.6	6.8	16.1
Clark County School District	NV	270529	66.7	5774	44.0	14.1	33.2	nr	21.2	10.9
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools	NC	114071	66.1	7188	41.6	44.5	9.0	43.2	0.4	12.0
Dade County School District	FL	371785	60.6	6956	10.4	28.9	59.4	63.7	16.7	12.0
Duval County School District	FL	129557	59.3	6350	47.8	44.1	4.8	43.9	2.3	15.9
Dallas Independent School District	TX	160584	58.5	7435	6.3	31.3	61.0	78.4	31.5	7.9
Pinellas County School District	FL	114510	58.3	6407	70.2	19.5	6.7	39.9	2.7	17.6
Philadelphia City School District	PA	189779	56.9	7554	14.6	65.2	14.7	71.1	nr	12.4
Houston Independent School District	TX	211499	56.2	7236	9.1	29.7	58.1	75.3	28.9	10.1
City of Chicago School District	IL	434419	53.4	7967	9.1	50.3	37.3	78.9	nr	12.7
Los Angeles Unified	CA	747009	52.7	8447	9.1	11.8	72.5	74.8	43.8	11.4
Memphis City School District	TN	116224	52.3	7005	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr	14.2
Detroit City School District	MI	153034	49.2	9063	3.0	90.8	5.1	68.2	5.4	13.5
New York City Public Schools	NY	1023674	38.9	11920	14.8	33.7	38.4	nr	nr	nr
Rank of SDPBC		12	8	16	7	11	13	13	8	6

Data Source:
Dalton, B; Sable, J; Hoffman, L; Characteristics of the 100 Largest Public Elementary and
Secondary School Districts in the United States: 2003-2004. Statistical Analysis Report.
National Center for Education Statistics (September 2006).
Reviewed February 9, 2007 at http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2006/2006606rev.pdf

Notes:
Graduation Rate is based on the averaged 2002-2003 freshman graduation rate to provide
an estimate of the percentage of high school students who graduate on time (i.e., within four
years of entering 9th grade for the first time) and aggregate counts of the number of diplomas
awarded four years later.
nr = not reported.

Table 2: Five Year Summary of District Progress on Graduation Rate

KEY RESULT		INDICATOR/STANDARD	EXTENT OF PERFORMANCE GAINS						
			District	Black	Hispanic	White	Free/Reduced Lunch	ESE	LEP
8	Graduation	Cohort Rate	% graduating						
			66.7 71.4	51.1 55.5	58.4 62.2	78.7 83.7	54.6 63.7	43.6 53.2	21.1 17.6

Table 3: Five Year Summary of District Progress in Closing Graduation Rate Gaps

KEY RESULT		INDICATOR/STANDARD	EXTENT OF PERFORMANCE GAPS				
			Black White	Hispanic White	ESE Non ESE	FRL Non FRL	LEP Non LEP
			2 0 0 2	2 0 0 2	2 0 0 2	2 0 0 2	2 0 0 2
8	Graduation	Cohort Rate	% graduating				
			27.6 28.1	20.3 21.5	25.9 20.4	14.8 10.0	47.4 57.4

STATISTICALLY POSITIVE
NO CHANGE
STATISTICALLY NEGATIVE