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MEMORANDUM

August 23, 2013

TO: School Board Members

FROM: E. Wayne Gent, Superintendent 

SUBJECT: **SUMMER FY2013 END-OF-COURSE ASSESSMENT RESULTS FOR ALGEBRA 1, GEOMETRY, BIOLOGY 1, AND U.S. HISTORY**

The Florida Department of Education (FDOE) has released the FY2013 Summer End-of-Course (EOC) Assessment results for Algebra 1, Geometry, Biology 1, and U.S. History. In August of 2013, 2,721 students took the EOC Algebra 1 test in the School District of Palm Beach County (SDPBC). Because a limited number of students took the Geometry, Biology 1, and U.S. History EOC tests during the summer administration, this analysis reports only the Algebra 1 EOC results.¹

Results for the Algebra 1 EOC test are reported separately for first-time test takers and for retakers. A preliminary analysis of the data revealed the following:²

- The SDPBC had a higher passing rate than Florida for first-time test takers, retakers, and all test takers (Table 1).
- The SDPBC had the largest increase in passing rate for retakers (11%) when compared to the five largest Florida districts (Table 2).

A large majority of the students taking the summer Algebra 1 EOC test are retakers (e.g., have taken the test previously). Students entering the ninth grade for the first time in FY2012 or later must pass the Algebra 1 EOC test in order to receive a standard diploma. Students who have not yet passed the Algebra 1 EOC test are given other opportunities to retake this test during the year.³

Tables 1 and 2 report the percent of students proficient on the Algebra 1 EOC for the SDPBC, Florida, and selected school districts.

Table 1. FY2013 Summer Algebra 1 EOC Results: Percentage of Students Scoring Level 3 or Above

	First-Time Test Takers	Retakers	All Test Takers
Palm Beach	64%	37%	41%
Florida	59%	32%	35%

¹ A total of 127 students took the Geometry EOC, 12 took the Biology 1 EOC, and five took the U.S. History EOC.

² First-time test taker data includes 146 private school students who may choose to enroll in a SDPBC public school this fall.

³ Passing the Geometry, Biology 1, and U.S. History EOC tests is not required in order to receive a standard diploma at this time.

Table 2. FY2012 and FY2013 Summer Algebra 1 EOC Results for Retakers in Five Largest Florida Districts*: Count of Retakers and Percentage of Students Scoring Level 3 or Above

	Summer FY2013 % Scoring 3+	Summer FY2012 % Scoring 3+
Florida	32%	32%
Palm Beach	37%	26%
Broward	27%	28%
Dade	31%	32%
Hillsborough	42%	44%
Orange	36%	30%

*Florida school districts exceeding 150,000 students.

Results for individual schools are available on the Department of Research, Evaluation and Assessment website at: <http://www.palmbeachschools.org/dre/FCAT.asp>.

Schools have received their results and will use this information to meet individual student needs and for school improvement. District and area staff will use the results to provide direction for improvement in curriculum and instruction.

If you have questions about individual school results, please contact the appropriate area superintendent or the school principal. If you have questions about instruction, please contact Keith Oswald, Assistant Superintendent, Division of Curriculum, at 357-1113. If you have questions about the results, please contact Mark Howard, Director, Research, Evaluation and Assessment, at 434-8781.

EWG/CA/FR/MH:bs

- c: Academic and Operating Chiefs
- Area/Assistant Superintendents
- Academic Directors
- Principals