

MEMORANDUM

TO: School Board Members
School District of Palm Beach County

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

DATE: September 12, 2001

SUBJECT: FY1997-FY2001 ACT Results

The Department of Research, Evaluation, and Accountability has completed an analysis of the FY2001 ACT High School Profile Report produced by the ACT Corporation. Tables 1 and 2 contain information about the participation rate and average composite scores for the School District of Palm Beach County (SDPBC), Florida, and the Nation. Table 3 contains the data for black, Hispanic, and white seniors in the SDPBC.

ACT results from multiple years can reveal trends in the demographics of the test takers and their academic preparation, and can provide individual schools and districts with one way of self evaluation and self comparison. However, ACT states the following in their report: "Caution should be used in making comparisons between state and national norms. State norms may differ from national norms for non-educational reasons such as the demographic make-up of a State's ACT-tested graduates compared to the Nation."

Some highlights of the our analysis of the ACT results are described below:

Participation Rate

- ◆ This year, 2,173 SDPBC seniors took the ACT, which yielded a participation rate of about 30%. The SDPBC's participation rate has remained stable for the past five years.
- ◆ The SDPBC's participation rate was less than Florida's and the Nation's rate.
- ◆ The participation rate of black, Hispanic, and white SDPBC seniors has remained stable for the past five years.

Composite Scores

- ◆ The average composite scores in the SDPBC have remained stable over the past five years, paralleling the trends in Florida and the Nation.
- ◆ The average composite scores of SDPBC black, Hispanic, and white seniors have remained stable for the past five years.

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These results will be shared with appropriate staff to provide direction for improvements in curriculum and instruction. Also, schools have received information about their ACT test takers and will use this information in the school improvement planning process. If you have questions about the ACT, please contact Marc Baron, Director of Research, Evaluation, and Accountability, at 434-8850.

AJ:KK:pm

c/attachments:

- Chief Academic Officer
- Chief Operating Officer
- Assistant to the Superintendent
- Area/Assistant Superintendents
- Academic Executive Directors and Directors
- High School Principals

Table 1.

FY1997-FY2001 Number of College-Bound Senior ACT Test-Takers and Participation Rate by High School, the SDPBC, Florida, and the Nation

High School	Number of ACT Test Takers					Participation Rate				
	FY1997	FY1998	FY1999	FY2000	FY2001	FY1997	FY1998	FY1999	FY2000	FY2001
Atlantic	120	89	91	106	129	28%	20%	20%	21%	25%
Boca Raton	152	125	139	148	127	42%	33%	37%	38%	36%
Dreyfoos School of the Arts	74	69	88	104	75	50%	43%	47%	45%	32%
Forest Hill	65	66	67	60	58	27%	24%	27%	23%	22%
Glades Central	127	99	113	130	102	49%	35%	49%	53%	44%
John I. Leonard	117	149	141	121	129	27%	31%	33%	30%	31%
Jupiter	142	106	122	122	134	43%	30%	35%	37%	36%
Lake Worth	172	144	118	137	135	39%	32%	23%	32%	34%
Olympic Heights	126	142	162	190	138	33%	34%	36%	39%	31%
Pahokee	45	43	48	50	31	48%	47%	59%	54%	32%
P. B. Gardens	46	66	112	132	114	16%	17%	28%	33%	28%
P. B. Lakes	86	88	93	76	85	20%	17%	16%	18%	19%
Royal Palm Beach	a	a	61	123	128	a	a	29%	40%	32%
Santaluces	166	152	147	196	164	34%	30%	30%	34%	30%
Spanish River	193	151	196	188	162	35%	30%	36%	35%	28%
Suncoast	201	164	150	141	152	71%	56%	54%	50%	53%
Wellington	221	230	206	203	210	37%	34%	40%	36%	39%
William T. Dwyer	47	58	46	48	84	13%	15%	11%	14%	22%
SDPBC	2,121	1,959	2,121	2,302	2,173	33%	28%	30%	33%	30%
Florida	40,496	43,379	46,072	49,928	51,118	39%	40%	41%	43%	43%
Nation	959,301	995,039	1,019,053	1,065,138	1,069,772	37%	37%	36%	38%	38%

Note. Participation rates for the SDPBC are determined by dividing the number of seniors who took the ACT by the total number of seniors in the second nine weeks. The participation rates for Florida and the Nation are based on the estimated percent of graduates tested, as reported by the Florida Department of Education. ^aNo senior class.

Table 2.

FY1997-FY2001 ACT Average Composite Scores of College-Bound Senior ACT Test-Takers by High School, the SDPBC, Florida, and the Nation

High School	ACT Average Composite Scores				
	FY1997	FY1998	FY1999	FY2000	FY2001
Atlantic	22.6	22.6	23.5	22.2	21.8
Boca Raton	20.8	21.0	21.1	21.3	21.2
Dreyfoos School of the Arts	22.8	23.5	23.0	22.0	22.3
Forest Hill	18.5	18.5	17.4	18.6	19.3
Glades Central	15.4	16.3	15.9	15.8	15.5
John I. Leonard	20.0	20.9	20.6	20.4	19.8
Jupiter	20.8	22.1	21.4	21.7	21.9
Lake Worth	19.1	19.5	18.9	18.6	19.6
Olympic Heights	21.6	21.8	21.1	22.3	22.4
Pahokee	16.0	16.1	16.4	15.6	15.4
P. B. Gardens	18.7	21.4	21.8	21.7	19.8
P. B. Lakes	19.1	18.8	17.9	17.6	17.4
Royal Palm Beach	a	a	20.3	19.8	19.9
Santaluces	19.9	20.1	19.5	19.3	19.4
Spanish River	22.1	21.4	22.3	22.5	21.8
Suncoast	23.3	23.5	23.3	22.9	22.0
Wellington	21.7	21.3	22.2	21.7	22.6
William T. Dwyer	20.9	20.6	20.3	20.3	20.9
SDPBC	20.5	20.8	20.7	20.6	20.5
Florida	20.7	20.8	20.6	20.6	20.4
Nation	21.0	21.0	21.0	21.0	21.0

^aNo senior class

Table 3
Table 3.

FY1997-FY2001 SDPBC ACT Results for Black, Hispanic, and White Students

Fiscal Year	Black			Hispanic			White								
	FY 1997	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 1997	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 1997	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 2001
Number of Test Takers	362	364	454	514	464	201	207	210	228	257	1105	1034	1131	1232	1142
Participation Rate	21%	18%	24%	28%	26%	25%	24%	25%	27%	25%	30%	27%	28%	30%	28%
Average Composite Score	16.6	16.7	16.5	16.5	16	20.1	19.6	20.4	19.9	20	22.0	22.4	22.4	22.2	22

Note. The participation rate for a disaggregated group is determined by dividing the number of seniors in a group who took the ACT by the total number of district seniors in the group in the second nine weeks.