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MEMORANDUM

July 26, 2013

TO: School Board Members

FROM: E. Wayne Gent, Superintendent

SUBJECT: **RELEASE OF THE PRELIMINARY FY2013 SCHOOL GRADES**

On July 26, 2013, the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) released the FY2013 School Grades for elementary and middle schools. FY2013 High School Grades will be calculated and reported in December.

A review of the FY2013 school grades for the School District of Palm Beach County (SDPBC) reveals the following:

- In FY2013, the SDPBC had a higher percentage of “A” schools than the State for elementary (41% vs. 27%) and middle schools (47% vs. 28%).
- The SDPBC had the highest percentage of “A” elementary and middle schools when compared to other large urban Florida school districts.¹
- In FY2013, the majority of SDPBC schools were rated “A” or “B”, 65% of elementary schools and 72% of middle schools.

This year, the FDOE applied numerous changes within a short timeline to school grade calculations including increased performance expectations, implementation of additional penalties and other variables within the calculation of school grades, contributing to a reduction in clarity of the system.²

In spite of similar or increased student performance in FY2013, these changes to the school grades calculation were expected to cause the number of “A” and “B” schools to decrease Statewide, and increase the number of “D” and “F” schools. As a result, on July 16, 2013, the State Board of Education (SBOE) enacted SBOE Rule 6AER13-01, *School Grade Mitigation*, which prevents a school from dropping more than one letter grade in FY2013.

¹ School districts with more than 150,000 students

² FY2013 changes to the school grades calculation can be viewed at <http://www.palmbeachschools.org/dre/schgrades.asp>

Tables of school grades are below, and are also available on the District web site along with a summary of the FDOE school grade changes for FY2013 at <http://www.palmbeachschools.org/dre/schgrades.asp>. The FDOE version of the 2013 School Grades is located at <http://schoolgrades.fldoe.org>.³

Should you have questions about school grades, please contact Dr. Frank Rodriguez, Assistant Superintendent of Quality Assurance, at 434-8851. If you have questions about instruction as it relates to school grades, please contact Keith Oswald, Assistant Superintendent, Division of Curriculum, at 357-1113. If you have questions about individual school efforts as they relate to school grades, please contact the appropriate area superintendent or school principal.

EWG/CA/FR/MH:bs

Attachments

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

³Tables 1-3 report charter schools and non-charter schools separately, whereas the FDOE combines charter and non-charter schools.

Table 1. Number and Percent of School Grades for Non-Charter Elementary Schools in the SDPBC and Florida

Year		A		B		C		D		F		Total
		Count	Pct	Count	Pct	Count	Pct	Count	Pct	Count	Pct	
FY2013	SDPBC	44	41.1%	26	24.3%	25	23.4%	10	9.3%	2	1.9%	107
	Florida	439	26.5%	470	28.4%	461	27.8%	232	14.0%	55	3.3%	1657
FY2012	SDPBC	62	57.9%	18	16.8%	20	18.7%	7	6.5%	0	0.0%	107
	Florida	799	47.8%	416	24.9%	312	18.7%	130	7.8%	13	0.8%	1670
FY2011	SDPBC	64	60.4%	17	16.0%	19	17.9%	6	5.7%	0	0.0%	106
	Florida	960	57.6%	314	18.8%	304	18.2%	76	4.6%	14	0.8%	1668
FY2010	SDPBC	61	58.1%	17	16.2%	20	19.0%	4	3.8%	3	2.9%	105
	Florida	891	53.3%	352	21.1%	342	20.5%	63	3.8%	23	1.4%	1671
FY2009	SDPBC	81	77.9%	13	12.5%	7	6.7%	3	2.9%	0	0.0%	104
	Florida	1209	72.5%	246	14.7%	174	10.4%	30	1.8%	9	0.5%	1668

Table 2. Number and Percent of School Grades for Non-Charter Middle Schools in the SDPBC and Florida

Year		A		B		C		D		F		Total
		Count	Pct	Count	Pct	Count	Pct	Count	Pct	Count	Pct	
FY2013	SDPBC*	15	46.9%	8	25.0%	7	21.9%	2	6.3%	0	0.0%	32
	Florida	141	28.3%	109	21.9%	150	30.1%	76	15.3%	22	4.4%	498
FY2012	SDPBC	22	66.7%	6	18.2%	4	12.1%	1	3.0%	0	0.0%	33
	Florida	214	42.6%	110	21.9%	114	22.7%	53	10.6%	11	2.2%	502
FY2011	SDPBC	26	78.8%	5	15.2%	2	6.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	33
	Florida	299	58.4%	89	17.4%	100	19.5%	24	4.7%	0	0.0%	512
FY2010	SDPBC	27	81.8%	2	6.1%	4	12.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	33
	Florida	316	61.8%	84	16.4%	94	18.4%	14	2.7%	3	0.6%	511
FY2009	SDPBC	25	75.8%	5	15.2%	3	9.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	33
	Florida	326	64.0%	79	15.5%	91	17.9%	12	2.4%	1	0.2%	509

* Lake Shore Middle has not received a grade at this time.

Table 3. Number and Percent of Letter Grades for Charter Elementary and Middle Schools in the SDPBC and Florida

Year		A		B		C		D		F		Total
		Count	Pct	Count	Pct	Count	Pct	Count	Pct	Count	Pct	
FY2013	SDPBC	2	16.7%	4	33.3%	3	25.0%	1	8.3%	2	16.7%	12
	Florida	130	38.2%	75	22.1%	76	22.4%	35	10.3%	24	7.1%	340
FY2012	SDPBC	1	50.0%	1	50.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2
	Florida	103	52.0%	39	19.7%	29	14.6%	14	7.1%	13	6.6%	198
FY2011	SDPBC	2	100%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2
	Florida	107	60.5%	19	10.7%	30	16.9%	9	5.1%	12	6.8%	177
FY2010	SDPBC	1	33.3%	2	66.7%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	3
	Florida	96	58.5%	22	13.4%	26	15.9%	11	6.7%	9	5.5%	164
FY2009	SDPBC	2	66.6%	1	33.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	3
	Florida	89	62.2%	27	18.9%	17	11.9%	4	2.8%	6	4.2%	143

Table 4a. Percent of FY2013 Regular Elementary School Letter Grades in Palm Beach and the Four Other Largest Florida School Districts**

	A	B	C	D	F
Palm Beach	41%	24%	23%	9%	2%
Broward	27%	24%	25%	18%	5%
Dade	26%	27%	28%	15%	4%
Hillsborough	28%	23%	28%	18%	2%
Orange	28%	31%	27%	12%	2%

By State definition, this table includes all elementary and middle schools in the SDPBC and other districts that received grades (excluding charter schools). Does not include schools with an incomplete 'I' grade.

**Florida school districts exceeding 150,000 students

Table 4b. Percent of FY2013 Regular Middle School Letter Grades in Palm Beach and the Four Other Largest Florida School Districts**

	A	B	C	D	F
Palm Beach	47%	25%	22%	6%	0%
Broward	23%	33%	30%	10%	5%
Dade	21%	9%	43%	21%	5%
Hillsborough	32%	20%	23%	23%	2%
Orange	34%	23%	31%	11%	0%

By State definition, this table includes all elementary and middle schools in the SDPBC and other districts that received grades (excluding charter schools). Does not include schools with an incomplete 'I' grade.

**Florida school districts exceeding 150,000 students

Table 4c. Percent of FY2013 Charter School Letter Grades in Palm Beach and the Four Other Largest Florida School Districts**

	A	B	C	D	F
Palm Beach	17%	33%	25%	8%	17%
Broward	31%	22%	29%	11%	7%
Dade	49%	16%	20%	9%	5%
Hillsborough	21%	32%	25%	18%	4%
Orange	50%	20%	20%	0%	10%

By State definition, this table includes all elementary and middle schools in the SDPBC and other districts that received grades (excludes regular schools). Does not include schools with an incomplete 'I' grade.

**Florida school districts exceeding 150,000 students