



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF  
PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA

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SUPERINTENDENT

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CHIEF OF PERFORMANCE ACCOUNTABILITY

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Board Members

**FROM:** Ann Killets  
Chief Academic Officer

**THROUGH:** Arthur C. Johnson, Ph.D.  
Superintendent

**DATE:** June 10, 2008

**SUBJECT: RELEASE OF FY2008 GRADES 5, 8, AND 11 FCAT SSS SCIENCE: ALL STUDENTS TESTED**

The Florida Department of Education has released the results for the FY2008 FCAT SSS Science test for all students tested.<sup>1</sup> Approximately 36,000 School District of Palm Beach County (SDPBC) students took the FCAT SSS Science Test in March 2008 at grades 5, 8, and 11.

Since FY2006, both the SDPBC and the State have shown considerable improvement in all grades tested. The FY2008 results show that the SDPBC continues to score higher than the State. A statistical analysis of the test results follows:

- From FY2007 to FY2008, the SDPBC improved at grade 8 in the percent of students at Level 3 and higher, and at grades 5 and 8 in the percent of students at Level 1.
- In FY2008, the SDPBC performed better than the State at all grades tested in the percent of students at Level 3 and higher and the percent of students at Level 1.

The attached tables report the percent of proficient students (those scoring Level 3 or higher) and the percent of low performing students (those scoring Level 1) for the SDPBC and the State from FY2006 through FY2008. Results for individual SDPBC schools are available on the Department of Research and Evaluation website or at the following address:

<http://www.palmbeach.k12.fl.us/9045/fy08fcats.html>.

These results will be shared with appropriate staff to provide direction for improvements in curriculum and instruction. Also, schools have received information about their FCAT SSS Science test takers and will use this information in the school improvement planning process.

<sup>1</sup> The tables are based on all students tested, and not on the group of students used in the calculation of school grades and AYP. The State has not provided disaggregated data at this time.

Should you have questions about the FCAT SSS Science results, please contact Dean Stecker, Director of Research and Evaluation, at 432-6376. If you have questions about instruction and the FCAT SSS Science, please contact Constance Tuman-Rugg, Assistant Superintendent, Division of Curriculum, at 357-1113. If you have questions about individual school efforts and the FCAT SSS Science, please contact the appropriate area superintendent or school principal.

ACJ/AK/MB/DS:jl

Attachments

c: Chief Academic Officer  
Chief Operating Officer  
Chief Technology Officer  
Chief of Performance Accountability  
Chief, Safety & Learning Environment  
Area/Assistant Superintendents  
Academic Executive Directors and Directors  
Principals

**Table 1: FCAT SCIENCE - Percent of Students at Level 3 or Higher**

Year	Grade 5		Grade 8		Grade 11	
	SDPBC	State	SDPBC	State	SDPBC	State
FY2006	40	35	35	32	36	35
FY2007	49	42	41	38	42	37
FY2008	50	43	43	40	42	38

**Table 2: FCAT SCIENCE - Percent of Students at Level 1**

Year	Grade 5		Grade 8		Grade 11	
	SDPBC	State	SDPBC	State	SDPBC	State
FY2006	27	29	33	35	33	32
FY2007	21	25	30	31	27	30
FY2008	19	23	25	27	26	29