



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF  
PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA

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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Board Members

**FROM:** Ann Killets  
Chief Academic Officer

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

**DATE:** May 27, 2008

**SUBJECT: FY2008 FCAT NORM REFERENCED TEST (NRT) RESULTS FOR GRADES 3-10, READING AND MATHEMATICS: ALL CURRICULUM GROUPS<sup>1</sup>**

The Florida Department of Education has released the results for the FCAT NRT<sup>2</sup> Reading and Mathematics tests. Approximately 99,000 students in grades 3 through 10 took the FCAT NRT in the School District of Palm Beach County (SDPBC) in March of 2008.

Overall, both the State and the SDPBC have shown large increases in Reading and in Mathematics since FY2005. The FY2008 results show that the SDPBC continues to score higher than the State in Mathematics, and similar to the State in Reading. Both the SDPBC and the State continue to score higher than the National average<sup>3</sup> in Reading and in Mathematics. A preliminary statistical analysis of the results revealed that

From FY2005 to FY2008, the SDPBC

- Increased substantially in Reading at grades 3 through 7, with smaller increases at grades 8, 9, and 10;
- Increased substantially in Mathematics at grades 4 through 8, showed a smaller increase at grade 9, and remained about the same at grades 3 and 10.

From FY2007 to FY2008, the SDPBC

- Increased in Reading at grades 4, 7, and 10, remained about the same at grades 5, 6, and 8, and decreased at grades 3 and 9;
- Increased in Mathematics at grades 5 and 6, remained the same at grade 8, and decreased at all other grades.

<sup>1</sup>This data is based on all students tested (all curriculum groups). The FCAT NRT is not used in the calculation of school grades. The FDOE has not provided disaggregated data for the FCAT NRT at this time.

<sup>2</sup>Since March 2005, the FCAT NRT program has used the Stanford Achievement Test, Tenth Edition (SAT/10). Prior to FY2005, the State used the SAT/9; therefore, comparisons to data prior to that year are inappropriate.

<sup>3</sup> The SAT/10 was normed in 2002.

The attached table reports the Grade 3 through 10 results for the SDPBC, the State, and the Nation for FY2005 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 NRT test takers and will use this information in the school improvement planning process.

If you have questions about these results, please contact Dean Stecker, Director of Research and Evaluation, at 432-6376. If you have questions about instruction and the FCAT NRT, please contact Constance Tuman-Rugg, Assistant Superintendent, Division of Curriculum, at 434-8549. If you have questions about the performance of individual schools, contact the appropriate Area Superintendent.

ACJ/AK/MB/DS

#### Attachments

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

**FCAT Norm-Referenced Test (NRT-SAT/10) Median  
National Percentile Ranks for All Curriculum Groups:  
School District of Palm Beach County (SDPBC), Florida,  
and the Nation**

		Reading				Mathematics			
		FY2005*	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008	FY2005*	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008
Grade 3	SDPBC	50	61	63	60	62	67	71	63
	State	50	61	62	60	62	67	69	63
	Nation	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
Grade 4	SDPBC	55	71	64	70	63	71	80	74
	State	55	70	63	69	63	71	77	71
	Nation	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
Grade 5	SDPBC	60	69	75	74	66	72	78	80
	State	61	69	74	73	64	71	75	77
	Nation	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
Grade 6	SDPBC	53	66	67	66	61	68	67	73
	State	54	67	66	65	61	67	66	71
	Nation	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
Grade 7	SDPBC	55	64	66	69	66	69	75	73
	State	56	65	66	70	65	69	73	72
	Nation	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
Grade 8	SDPBC	66	64	67	68	69	75	77	77
	State	67	65	67	68	67	73	74	74
	Nation	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
Grade 9	SDPBC	63	66	72	66	72	77	77	75
	State	63	65	71	67	71	74	74	73
	Nation	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
Grade 10	SDPBC	66	67	61	69	64	72	70	65
	State	61	67	60	71	58	70	67	63
	Nation	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50

\* The FCAT NRT program has used the Stanford Achievement Test, Tenth Edition (SAT/10) since FY2005. Prior to FY2005, the State used the SAT/9; therefore, comparisons to data prior to that year are inappropriate. The SAT/10 was normed in 2002.