



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA

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SUPERINTENDENT

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Board Members

FROM: Ann Killets
Chief Academic Officer

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

DATE: May 8, 2008

SUBJECT: **FY2008 FCAT Writing+ Test Results for All Students Tested**

On May 8, 2008, the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) released the results of the FCAT Writing+ Test for all students tested.¹ Approximately 36,500 students in the School District of Palm Beach County (SDPBC) took the FCAT Writing+ Test in February 2008 at grades 4, 8, and 10.

A preliminary statistical analysis of the percent of students scoring 3.5 and above² revealed that the SDPBC (1) continues to outperform the State and (2) showed significant improvement at the secondary level. Specifically,

- In FY2008, the SDPBC continued to perform higher than the State at grade 4 (85% vs. 77%), grade 8 (91% vs. 88%), and grade 10 (82% vs. 78%);
- The degree to which the SDPBC outperformed the State was greater in FY2008 than in FY2007 at all grades, and has steadily increased at grade 4 since FY2004.
- Percents for the SDPBC increased from FY2007 to FY2008 at grade 8 (86% to 91%), and were similar at grade 4 (85% to 85%) and grade 10 (81% to 82%);
- Percents for the State increased slightly from FY2007 to FY2008 at grade 8 (86% to 88%), and were similar at grade 4 (78% to 77%) and grade 10 (79% to 78%);

Results for the SDPBC and the State of Florida are attached. 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>. Schools have received their Writing+ scores and will use this information in the school improvement planning process. These results will also be shared with appropriate staff to provide direction for improvements in curriculum and instruction.

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

ACJ/AK/MB/DS:rj

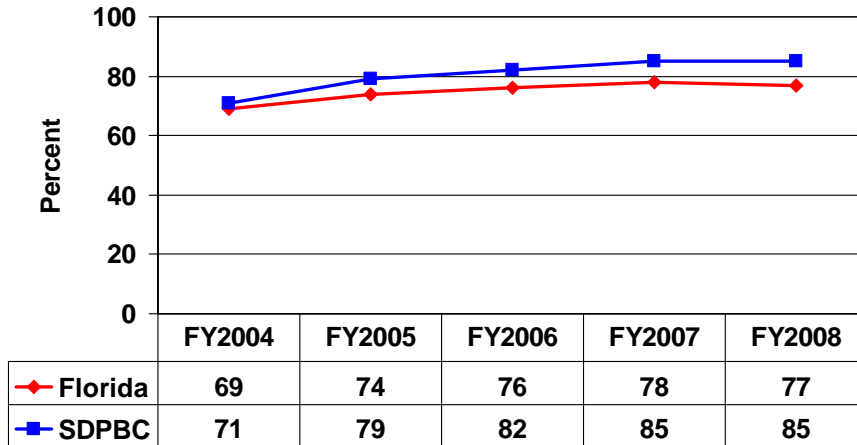
Attachments

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

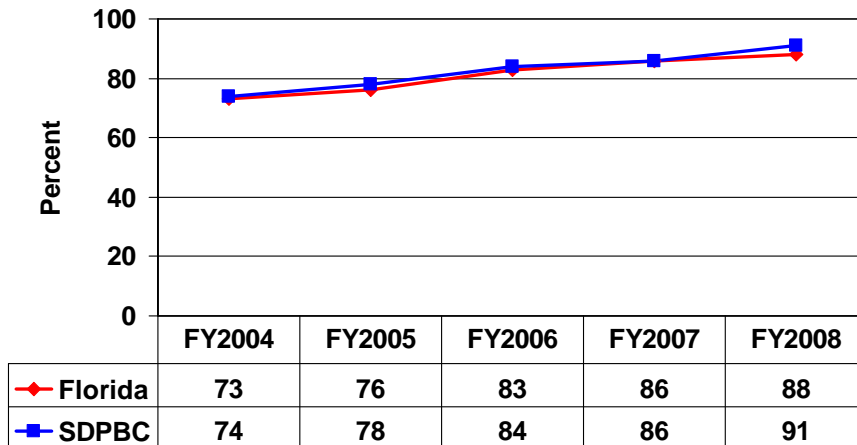
¹ The Writing+ test in FY2008 consisted of essay and multiple choice sections. However, the multiple choice section is not reported here as it will not be used for the FY2008 school grades and will not be administered in FY2009. This summary is based on all students tested, not on the group of students used in the calculation of school grades or AYP. The FDOE has not provided disaggregated data at this time.

² Meeting high standards

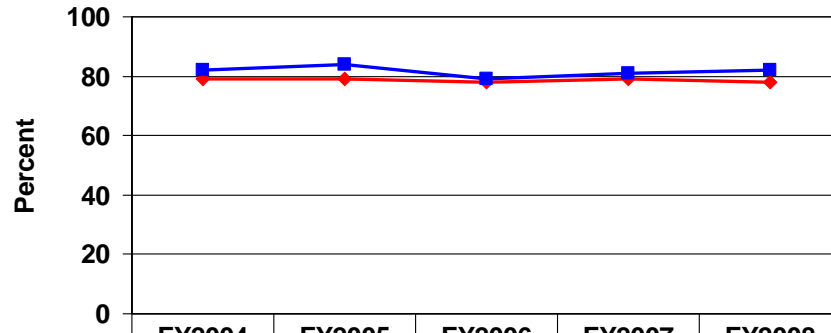
Grade 4 FCAT Writing Rubric Percent Scoring 3.5 and Above All Students Tested



Grade 8 FCAT Writing Rubric Percent Scoring 3.5 and Above All Students Tested



Grade 10 FCAT Writing Rubric Percent Scoring 3.5 and Above All Students Tested



	FY2004	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008
◆ Florida	79	79	78	79	78
■ SDPBC	82	84	79	81	82