



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT
OF PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Board Members

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

DATE: May 7, 2009

SUBJECT: FCAT SSS RETAKE RESULTS FOR GRADES 10, 11, AND 12

On May 7, 2008, the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) released the results of the March FCAT SSS Retakes. For the School District of Palm Beach County (SDPBC), 5,636 students took the FCAT SSS Retakes in Reading and 2,257 students in Mathematics at grades 10, 11, and 12¹.

The results indicate that the percent of students passing the Reading Retake increased in FY2009 from FY2008 for both the SDPBC and the State but decreased in Mathematics for both. A statistical analysis of the results revealed the following:

- The percent of SDPBC students passing Reading increased from FY2008 to FY2009 (18% to 24%) and decreased in Mathematics (35% to 30%).
- In FY2009, the SDPBC performed the same as the State in Reading (24% vs. 24%) and similarly to the State in Mathematics (30% vs. 31%).
- More students took the Retakes in Reading than in Mathematics in both the SDPBC and the State in large part because a greater percent of students pass the Grade 10 FCAT SSS Mathematics than Reading (a difference of approximately 30 percentage points).

The attached table reports the FCAT SSS Retake results for the SDPBC and the State for FY2008 and FY2009. 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/fcat_menu.htm. Schools have received their Retake results 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 these results, please contact Dean Stecker, Director of Research and Evaluation, at 432-6376. If you have questions about District initiatives that are being implemented to increase success rates on the FCAT SSS Retakes, please contact Ira Margulies, Director, Supplemental Educational Services, at 969-5857. If you have questions about the performance of individual schools, contact the appropriate area superintendent.

ACJ/MB/DS/rj

Attachments

c: Chief of Staff
Chief Academic Officer
Academic and Operating Chiefs
Area/Assistant Superintendents
Academic Executive Directors/Directors
Principals

¹Students in grades 10, 11, 12 who have not yet passed the test may retake it in October and March. This data is based on all students tested, not on the group of students used in the calculation of school grades. The FDOE has not provided disaggregated data at this time.

Table 1: March 2008 and 2009 FCAT SSS Retakes for the School District of Palm Beach County (SDPBC) and the State: All Students Tested

	FY2008				FY2009			
	SDPBC		State		SDPBC		State	
	Number Taking	Percent Passing	Number Taking	Percent Passing	Number Taking	Percent Passing	Number Taking	Percent Passing
Reading Grades 10-12	5,936	18%	85,399	20%	5,636	24%	81,480	24%
Mathematics Grades 10-12	2,509	35%	38,561	36%	2,257	30%	33,365	31%