



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF  
PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA

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CHIEF OF PERFORMANCE ACCOUNTABILITY

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Board Members

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

**DATE:** April 30, 2009

**SUBJECT: FY2009 FCAT Writing Results for All Students Tested**

On April 30, 2009, the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) released the results of FCAT Writing for all students tested.<sup>1</sup> Approximately 37,800 students in the School District of Palm Beach County (SDPBC) took FCAT Writing in February of 2009 at grades 4, 8, and 10.

A statistical analysis of the percent of students scoring 3.5 and above<sup>2</sup> revealed that the SDPBC continued to outperform the State, and made a significant gain from FY2008 to FY2009 at fourth grade. Specifically,

- In FY2009, the SDPBC continued to perform higher than the State at grade 4 (89% vs. 85%), grade 8 (92% vs. 90%), and grade 10 (81% vs. 77%);
- Percents for the SDPBC increased from FY2008 to FY2009 at grade 4 (85% to 89%), and were similar at grade 8 (91% to 92%) and grade 10 (82% to 81%).

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/fcat\\_menu.htm](http://www.palmbeach.k12.fl.us/9045/fcat_menu.htm). Schools have received their FCAT 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 regarding the results, please contact Dean Stecker, Director of Research and Evaluation, at 432-6376. If you have questions about instruction and FCAT Writing, please contact Constance Tuman-Rugg, Assistant Superintendent, Division of Curriculum, at 357-1113. If you have questions about the performance of individual schools, please contact the appropriate Area Superintendent.

ACJ:AK:MB:DS:jl

### Attachments

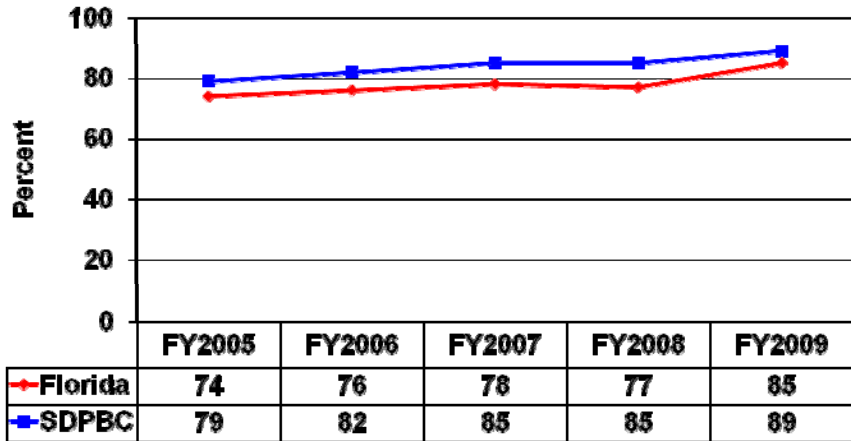
c: Chief Academic Officer  
Academic and Operating Chiefs  
Area/Assistant Superintendents  
Academic Executive Directors/Directors  
Principals

<sup>1</sup> FCAT Writing in FY2009 consisted only of an essay section, as the multiple choice section was discontinued after FY2008. 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.

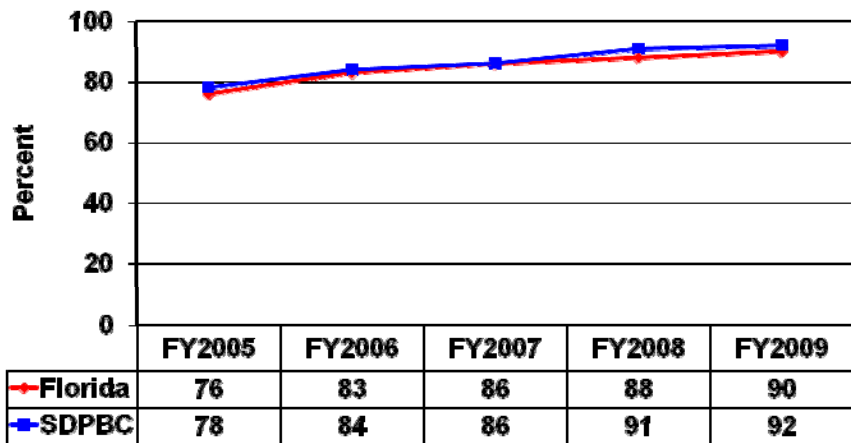
<sup>2</sup> Meeting high standards

Q:\KRS\KR3-FCAT analysis\FY2009\FCAT Writes\Final folder\FY09 Exec Sum FCAT Writing text only V03.doc

### 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

