



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT
OF PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA

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SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

MEMORANDUM

June 30, 2010

TO: School Board Members

FROM: Marc Baron, Ph.D., Chief
Performance Accountability 

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

SUBJECT: RELEASE OF FY2010 FCAT SSS READING, MATHEMATICS, SCIENCE, AND WRITING: ALL STUDENTS TESTED

The Florida Department of Education (FDOE) has released the FY2010 results for FCAT SSS Reading, Mathematics, Science, and Writing for all students tested.¹ In February and March of 2010, approximately

- 104,000 School District of Palm Beach County (SDPBC) students took the FCAT SSS Reading and Mathematics Tests in grades 3 through 10,
- 38,000 students took the FCAT SSS Science Test in grades 5, 8, and 11,
- 37,000 students took the FCAT Writing Test in grades 4, 8, and 10.

Overall, the SDPBC has shown substantial improvement in FCAT SSS Reading, Mathematics, and Science since FY2006. In addition, the District performed higher than the State at most grade levels in FY2010. A statistical analysis of the percent of students proficient and above² follows.

- From FY2006 to FY2010, the SDPBC improved in Reading, Mathematics, and Science at all grades, with the exception of grade 3 Reading³.
- From FY2009 to FY2010, the SDPBC improved
 - In Science at grades 8 and 11,
 - In Mathematics at grades 6, 7, 8, and 10,
 - In Reading at grades 7 through 10.

¹ This data is 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.

² There are five levels, ranging from Level 1 to Level 5, reported for FCAT SSS Reading, Mathematics, and Science. Level 3 is considered proficient.

³ From FY2006 to FY2009, two different types of writing prompts were given at each grade. In FY2010, the State administered only one prompt per grade. As a result, the FDOE cautions against comparing FY2010 results with those of previous years.

- In FY2010, the SDPBC performed better than the State
 - At grades 5, 8, and 11 in Science,
 - At grades 5 through 10 in Mathematics,
 - At grades 7 through 10 in Reading,
 - At grades 8 and 10 in Writing.

The attached Tables 1-6 report the percent of students proficient and above and the percent of lowest-performing (Level 1) students in Reading, Mathematics, and Science for the SDPBC and the State. Table 7 reports the average essay scores for Writing.⁴ Results for individual SDPBC schools are available on the Department of Research and Evaluation website at <http://www.palmbeachschools.org/dre>.

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

Should you have questions about the FCAT SSS results, please contact Dean Stecker, Director of Research and Evaluation, at 432-6376. If you have questions about instruction and the FCAT SSS, 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, please contact the appropriate area superintendent or school principal.

ACJ/MB/DS

Attachments

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

⁴ Writing essays are scored on a six-point scale, ranging from 1.0 (low) to 6.0 (high). In 2005, the FDOE began using the percentage of students scoring 3.5 and above for school grades. In 2010, the State discontinued the use of two raters per student, and, therefore, only whole number scores were possible. The average of the percentages of students scoring 3.0 and above and 4.0 and above is used to simulate the previous standard of 3.5 and above.

Table 1: FCAT SSS Reading: Percent of Students Proficient and Above

Year	Grade 3		Grade 4		Grade 5		Grade 6		Grade 7		Grade 8		Grade 9		Grade 10	
	PB ⁵	FL ⁶	PB	FL	PB	FL	PB	FL	PB	FL	PB	FL	PB	FL	PB	FL
FY2006	74	75	65	66	66	67	63	64	59	61	46	46	42	40	34	32
FY2007	69	69	68	68	72	72	62	62	64	63	48	49	44	41	35	34
FY2008	71	72	69	70	67	67	64	63	64	65	55	53	48	46	39	38
FY2009	69	71	74	74	72	71	69	66	67	67	55	54	48	47	40	37
FY2010	68	72	72	72	70	69	68	67	71	68	58	55	51	48	45	39

Table 2: FCAT SSS Reading: Percent of Students at Level 1

Year	Grade 3		Grade 4		Grade 5		Grade 6		Grade 7		Grade 8		Grade 9		Grade 10	
	PB	FL	PB	FL	PB	FL	PB	FL	PB	FL	PB	FL	PB	FL	PB	FL
FY2006	15	14	20	19	18	17	19	18	20	19	25	24	29	30	38	38
FY2007	19	19	17	18	13	14	19	19	17	17	23	22	27	28	38	39
FY2008	17	16	18	17	16	17	18	18	18	17	18	18	24	25	34	35
FY2009	18	17	13	13	13	14	15	16	15	15	17	18	22	22	32	34
FY2010	19	16	15	16	15	15	17	17	13	14	17	17	21	21	29	32

Table 3: FCAT SSS Mathematics: Percent of Students Proficient and Above

Year	Grade 3		Grade 4		Grade 5		Grade 6		Grade 7		Grade 8		Grade 9		Grade 10	
	PB	FL	PB	FL	PB	FL	PB	FL	PB	FL	PB	FL	PB	FL	PB	FL
FY2006	72	72	67	67	57	57	55	53	55	55	61	60	64	59	68	65
FY2007	76	74	72	69	61	59	52	50	63	59	66	63	64	60	68	65
FY2008	76	76	74	71	65	61	56	53	63	61	71	67	69	65	70	69
FY2009	79	78	77	75	65	62	61	55	65	60	70	66	72	68	72	69
FY2010	79	78	75	74	65	63	63	57	70	61	73	68	71	67	77	73

Table 4: FCAT SSS Mathematics: Percent of Students at Level 1

Year	Grade 3		Grade 4		Grade 5		Grade 6		Grade 7		Grade 8		Grade 9		Grade 10	
	PB	FL	PB	FL	PB	FL	PB	FL	PB	FL	PB	FL	PB	FL	PB	FL
FY2006	12	12	13	14	17	17	24	26	23	23	19	20	15	18	14	15
FY2007	11	12	11	13	13	15	26	28	18	20	16	18	15	17	12	14
FY2008	10	10	11	12	13	15	24	26	17	18	13	14	13	15	12	12
FY2009	9	10	9	10	13	14	20	24	17	20	12	14	10	12	11	12
FY2010	8	9	9	10	13	14	19	23	14	19	10	12	11	13	8	10

⁵ PB = SDPBC⁶ FL = State of Florida

Table 5: FCAT SSS Science: Percent of Students Proficient and Above

Year	Grade 5		Grade 8		Grade 11	
	PB ⁷	FL ⁸	PB	FL	PB	FL
FY2006	40	35	35	32	36	35
FY2007	49	42	41	38	42	37
FY2008	50	43	43	40	42	38
FY2009	53	46	46	41	41	37
FY2010	54	49	50	43	46	38

Table 6: FCAT SSS Science: Percent of Students at Level 1

Year	Grade 5		Grade 8		Grade 11	
	PB	FL	PB	FL	PB	FL
FY2006	27	29	33	35	33	32
FY2007	21	25	30	31	27	30
FY2008	19	23	25	27	26	29
FY2009	18	21	26	27	30	31
FY2010	17	19	21	25	25	28

Table 7: FCAT Writing: Average of the Percent of Students Scoring 3.0 and Above and 4.0 and Above

Year	Grade 4		Grade 8		Grade 10	
	PB	FL	PB	FL	PB	FL
FY2006	81	76	82	81	77	75
FY2007	84	78	85	84	80	77
FY2008	84	77	89	87	79	76
FY2009	88	83	91	88	79	75
FY2010	82	81	88	86	87	83

From FY2006 to FY2009, two different types of writing prompts were given at each grade. In FY2010, the State administered only one prompt per grade. As a result, the FDOE cautions against comparing FY2010 results with those of previous years.

Writing essays are scored on a six-point scale, ranging from 1.0 (low) to 6.0 (high). In 2005, the FDOE began using the percentage of students scoring 3.5 and above for school grades. In 2010, the State discontinued the use of two raters per student, and, therefore, only whole number scores were possible. The average of the percentages of students scoring 3.0 and above and 4.0 and above is used to simulate the previous standard of 3.5 and above.

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