

SCHOOL DISTRICT
OF PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA

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CHIEF


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CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER

May 26, 2011

MEMORANDUM

TO: School Board Members

FROM: Judith Klinek 
Chief Academic Officer

THROUGH: William F. Malone 
Superintendent

SUBJECT: **FY2011 GRADE 3 FLORIDA COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT TEST 2.0 (FCAT 2.0) READING AND MATHEMATICS RESULTS: ALL STUDENTS TESTED**

The Florida Department of Education (FDOE) has released the results of the FY2011 Grade 3 FCAT 2.0 Reading and Mathematics tests. In April 2011, approximately 13,300 students took the Grade 3 FCAT 2.0 in the School District of Palm Beach County (SDPBC).¹

Third grade results are released early to enable schools to make promotion decisions for next school year. According to Florida Statute 1008.25, third grade students scoring Level 1 on Grade 3 FCAT Reading SSS must be retained unless exempted for good cause. Please refer to the District's 2010-2011 Elementary School Student Progression Plan for information concerning student promotion, including good cause.

This year, the State administered the FCAT 2.0, which measures the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards, a new and more rigorous set of State standards. In order to maintain consistency from the previous FCAT test to the FCAT 2.0, the FDOE has set the FY2011 percentages of students in each FCAT 2.0 level to be exactly the same as the percentages for FY2010. As a result, the State percentages of students in each level will remain the same as the previous year. However, District and school percentages can change from the previous year, and can be compared to the State.²

Overall, at Grade 3, District reading proficiency improved and mathematics performance declined (see Tables 1 and 2).

A more detailed analysis reveals the following:

From FY2010 to FY2011, relative to the State, the percent of District students scoring proficient and higher

- improved by two percentage points in reading, but in FY2011 is lower than the State by two percentage points
- declined by four percentage points in mathematics, and in FY2011 is lower than the State by three percentage points

¹ This summary is based on all students tested, not on the group of students used in the calculation of school grades. The State has not released disaggregated data by race/ethnicity at this time.

² Student results for the FY2011 FCAT 2.0 assessments are being reported on the existing FCAT scale as FCAT Equivalent Scores. The scores are being reported in this way to maintain consistent student expectations during the transition from the FCAT to the FCAT 2.0.

From FY2010 to FY2011, relative to the State, the percent of District students scoring Level 1

- remained about the same in reading, but in FY2011 is higher than the State by two percentage points
- increased in mathematics, and in FY2011 is higher than the State by two percentage points

Table 1: FCAT 2.0 Grade 3 Reading and Mathematics Results – Percent of Students Scoring Level 3 or Above

Year	Reading		Mathematics	
	SDPBC	State	SDPBC	State
FY2007	69	69	76	74
FY2008	71	72	76	76
FY2009	69	71	79	78
FY2010	68	72	79	78
FY2011	70	72	75	78

Table 2: FCAT 2.0 Grade 3 Reading and Mathematics Results – Percent of Students Scoring Level 1

Year	Reading		Mathematics	
	SDPBC	State	SDPBC	State
FY2007	19	19	11	12
FY2008	17	16	10	10
FY2009	18	17	9	10
FY2010	19	16	8	9
FY2011	18	16	11	9

Results for individual schools are available on the Department of Research and Evaluation website at: <http://www.palmbeachschools.org/dre/FCAT.asp>

Schools have received their results and will use this information to meet individual student needs and for school improvement. District and area staff will use the results to provide direction for improvement in curriculum and instruction.

If you have questions about individual school results, please contact the appropriate area superintendent or the school principal. If you have questions about instruction, please contact Constance Tuman-Rugg, Assistant Superintendent, Division of Curriculum, at 357-1113. If you have questions about the results, please contact Mark Howard, Director of Research and Evaluation, at 432-6376.

WFM/JK/MB/MH

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