



MEMORANDUM

May 24, 2012

TO: School Board Members

FROM: Janis Andrews, Ed. D.
Chief Academic Officer

THROUGH: E. Wayne Gent
Superintendent

SUBJECT: FY2012 GRADE 3 FCAT 2.0 READING AND MATHEMATICS RESULTS: ALL STUDENTS TESTED

The Florida Department of Education (FDOE) has released the results of the FY2012 Grade 3 FCAT 2.0 Reading and Mathematics tests. In April 2012, approximately 13,600 students took the Grade 3 FCAT 2.0 tests in the School District of Palm Beach County (SDPBC).¹

Because the FCAT 2.0 scale is only available for the FY2011 and FY2012 results, this summary analysis reports only these two years.

A preliminary analysis of the results in Table 1 reveals the following findings from FY2011 to FY2012:

- SDPBC and Florida mathematics performance improved.
- SDPBC and Florida reading performance remained about the same.

Table 1. FCAT 2.0 Grade 3 Results

Year	Percent of Students in Level 3 or Higher				Percent of Students in Level 1			
	Grade 3 Reading		Grade 3 Mathematics		Grade 3 Reading		Grade 3 Mathematics	
	SDPBC	Florida	SDPBC	Florida	SDPBC	Florida	SDPBC	Florida
FY2011	55	57	53	56	20	18	21	19
FY2012	54	56	56	58	20	18	19	18

According to Florida Statute 1008.25, third grade students scoring Level 1 on Grade 3 FCAT 2.0 Reading must be retained unless exempted for good cause.² Prior to FY2012, the Level 1 score was based upon an FCAT 1.0 scale and not the more rigorous FCAT 2.0 scale. In FY2011, approximately 2,400 students in the SDPBC scored in Level 1 Reading on the FCAT 1.0 scale. Because the FCAT 2.0 scale is more rigorous, a greater number of students in the SDPBC (approximately 2,700) scored in Level 1 Reading on the FCAT 2.0 scale.

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

² Please refer to the District's Elementary School Student Progression Plan for information concerning student promotion, including good cause.

Results for individual schools are available on the Department of Research, Evaluation and Assessment 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 Keith Oswald, Assistant Superintendent, Division of Curriculum, at 357-1113. If you have questions about the results, please contact Mark Howard, Director, Research, Evaluation and Assessment, at 434-8781.

EWG/JA/MB/MH/bs

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