

SCHOOL DISTRICT
PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA

PERFORMANCE ACCOUNTABILITY
3300 FOREST HILL BLVD., SUITE B202
WEST PALM BEACH, FL 33406-5813

Ph: 561-434-8850 Fax: 561-434-8903
www.palmbeachschools.org

MARC BARON, Ph.D.
CHIEF


JUDITH KLINEK
CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER

December 5, 2011

MEMORANDUM

TO: School Board Members

FROM: Judith Klinek 
Chief Academic Officer

THROUGH: E. Wayne Gent 
Superintendent

SUBJECT: FALL FCAT/FCAT 2.0 RETAKE RESULTS FOR GRADES 10, 11, AND 12

On November 30, 2011, the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) released the results of the Fall FCAT/FCAT 2.0 Retakes. Students enrolled in public schools in the State of Florida must pass the FCAT/FCAT 2.0 in reading and FCAT in mathematics in order to graduate with a standard diploma. Those students in grades 10, 11, and 12 who have not yet passed the FCAT/FCAT 2.0 may participate in the Fall and Spring Retake.¹ For the School District of Palm Beach County (SDPBC), the number of students in grades 10, 11, and 12 who took the Fall FCAT/FCAT 2.0 Reading and FCAT Mathematics Retakes was 7,340 and 3,249, respectively.²

In the Spring of FY2011, the State continued to use the FCAT for reading and mathematics, but introduced the new FCAT 2.0 for reading. Students who failed the Spring FY2011 FCAT 2.0 in reading must take the FCAT 2.0 Reading Retake, while students who failed the Spring FY2011 FCAT in reading must take the FCAT Reading Retake.³ Because there are now two different reading retake tests, the SDPBC cannot compare its reading passing rates from FY2011 to FY2012.

An analysis of the Fall retakes revealed the following major findings:

- From FY2011 to FY2012, for FCAT Mathematics Retakes, the percent of SDPBC Grade 10 students passing decreased 12 percentage points (from 33% to 21%), while those of the State decreased five percentage points (from 28% to 23%).
- In FY2012, for FCAT Reading and FCAT 2.0 Reading Retakes, the percents passing in the SDPBC showed no discernable pattern when compared to those of the State.

Q:\KRs\KR3-FCAT analysis\FY2012\October retakes\FINAL\FY12 ExecSum for Oct Retakes V10.docx

¹ Students may also meet the graduation requirement by achieving a concordant score on the SAT or ACT tests.

² This does not include test scores for 35 students in reading and 115 students in mathematics that were invalidated by the State pending further investigation.

³ Students who entered grade 9 in FY2010 must earn passing scores on the Grade 10 FCAT 2.0 Reading and Grade 10 FCAT Mathematics assessments.

Palm Beach County Schools - Rated "A" by the Florida Department of Education 2005 – 2011

"Home of Florida's first LEED Gold Certified School"

www.palmbeach.k12.fl.us

The School District of Palm Beach County is an Equal Education Opportunity Provider and Employer

FY2012 results for individual SDPBC schools are available at the following address:

<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 planning.

If you have questions about these results, please contact Mark Howard, Director of Research, Evaluation, and Assessment, at 434-8850. If you have questions about District initiatives designed for increasing the FCAT Retake passing rates, please contact Janis Andrews, Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum and Learning Support, at 357-1113. If you have questions about the performance of individual schools, please contact the appropriate area superintendent.

EWG/JK/MB/MH/bls

c/attachments

- Division Chiefs
- Area/Assistant Superintendents
- Academic Directors
- Principals

Table 1. FY2011 FCAT October Retakes for the SDPBC and Florida:
 All Students Tested in Grades 10-12

	Grade	Math SSS ¹		Reading SSS ¹	
		Number Tested	Percent Passing	Number Tested	Percent Passing
SDPBC	10	457	33	795	21
	11	1,695	44	4,221	36
	12	672	40	2,034	24
Florida	10	3,420	28	6,320	23
	11	29,898	43	70,038	37
	12	13,241	37	34,585	27

Table 2. FY2012 FCAT October Retakes for the SDPBC and Florida:
 All Students Tested in Grades 10-12

	Grade	Math SSS ¹		Reading SSS ²		Reading 2.0 ³	
		Number Tested	Percent Passing	Number Tested	Percent Passing	Number Tested	Percent Passing
SDPBC	10	603	21	127	17	732	15
	11	1,955	42	506	13	3,980	31
	12	691	36	1,981	22	14	**
Florida	10	3,872	23	705	13	5,262	17
	11	36,040	39	5,716	17	68,366	29
	12	12,484	34	29,938	23	610	33

** indicates no summary generated for a group of less than 30 students.

¹ Includes students taking the retake test for the first time as well as students who have previously taken a retake test

² Does not include students taking the retake test for the first time

³ Only includes students taking the retake test for the first time