



DIVISION OF PERFORMANCE ACCOUNTABILITY  
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## MEMORANDUM

June 12, 2015

**TO:** School Board Members

**THROUGH:** Dr. Robert Avossa, Superintendent

**FROM:** Keith Oswald, Interim Chief Academic Officer

**SUBJECT: SPRING FY2015 ASSESSMENT RESULTS: SCIENCE FCAT 2.0; BIOLOGY 1, U.S. HISTORY, and CIVICS END-OF-COURSE (EOC)**

The Florida Department of Education (FDOE) has released the FY2015 Spring Assessment results for the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards (NGSSS) FCAT 2.0 Science, Biology 1, U.S. History, and Civics End-of-Course (EOC). In May of 2015, the following numbers of School District of Palm Beach County (SDPBC) students participated in NGSSS assessments: 26,710 in FCAT 2.0 Science, 12,060 in Biology, 11,560 in U.S. History, and 13,554 in Civics<sup>1</sup>.

A preliminary analysis of the data revealed the following:

- In FY2015, the SDPBC had a higher proficiency rate<sup>2</sup> than the State for
  - Biology 1 EOC (Table 1)
  - U.S. History EOC (Table 4)
  - Civics EOC (Table 7)
  - FCAT 2.0 Science Grades 5 and 8 (Table 9)
- In FY2015, when compared with the largest districts in the State<sup>3</sup>, the SDPBC had the highest proficiency rate for
  - Biology 1 EOC (Table 3)
  - FCAT 2.0 Science Grades 5 and 8 (Table 10)
- From FY2014 to FY2015, the SDPBC performed similarly on
  - Biology 1 EOC (70% to 71%) and U.S. History EOC (67% to 68%)
  - FCAT 2.0 Science Grades 5 and 8 (Table 10)
- From FY2013 to FY2015, the SDPBC increased the proficiency rate for
  - Biology 1 EOC by 3 percentage points (68% to 71%)
  - U.S. History by 13 percentage points (55% to 68%)
  - FCAT 2.0 Science by 4 percentage points in Grade 8 (49% to 53%)

<sup>1</sup> FY2015 is the first time the achievement levels are reported for the Civics EOC assessment; therefore, no annual comparisons are available.

<sup>2</sup> The EOC results are reported for first time test-takers.

<sup>3</sup> Florida school districts exceeding 150,000 students.

Tables 1 through 10 provide the results of FCAT 2.0 Science and Spring EOC Assessments in Biology 1, U.S. History, and Civics.

**Table 1. FY13-FY15 Spring Biology 1 EOC Results – Percentage of Students Scoring Level 3 or Above**

	First-Time Test Takers			Retakers			All Test Takers		
	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015
SDPBC	68	70	71	36	27	34	67	68	70
Florida	67	68	65	32	30	31	66	66	64

**Table 2. FY13-FY15 Spring Biology 1 EOC Results by Grade Level for First Time Test Takers – Percentage of Students Scoring Level 3 or Above**

	Grade 8		Grade 9		Grade 10		Grade 11		Grade 12	
	PB	FL	PB	FL	PB	FL	PB	FL	PB	FL
FY2013	NR	93	88	80	58	55	39	44	29	38
FY2014	NR	94	88	80	61	56	35	48	26	48
FY2015	NR	90	93	79	60	52	34	47	39	41

NR = Not Reported; PB=SDPBC; FL=Florida

**Table 3. FY13-FY15 Spring Biology 1 EOC Results for First Time Test Takers in Five Largest Florida Districts: Percentage of Students Scoring Level 3 or Above**

	FY13	FY14	FY15
Palm Beach	68	70	71
Broward	66	65	64
Hillsborough	64	64	63
Miami-Dade	63	66	63
Orange	69	68	67

**Table 4. FY13-FY15 Spring U.S. History EOC Results – Percentage of Students Scoring Level 3 or Above**

	First-Time Test Takers			Retakers			All Test Takers		
	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015
SDPBC	55	67	68	NA	31	28	NA	66	67
Florida	56	65	66	NA	36	40	NA	65	66

NA = Not Available

**Table 5. FY14-FY15 Spring U.S. History EOC Results by Grade Level for First Time Test Takers – Percentage of Students Scoring Level 3 or Above**

	Grade 8		Grade 9		Grade 10		Grade 11		Grade 12	
	PB	FL	PB	FL	PB	FL	PB	FL	PB	FL
FY2014	NR	63	15	56	33	62	70	66	55	62
FY2015	NR	57	43	65	52	63	69	67	48	61

NR = Not Reported; PB=SDPBC; FL=Florida

**Table 6. FY14-FY15 Spring U.S. History EOC Results for First Time Test Takers in Five Largest Florida Districts: Percentage of Students Scoring Level 3 or Above**

	FY14	FY15
Palm Beach	67	68
Broward	62	64
Hillsborough	74	74
Miami-Dade	57	59
Orange	65	65

**Table 7. FY15 Spring Civics EOC Results for First Time Test Takers – Percentage of Students Scoring Level 3 or Above**

	SDPBC	Florida
Percent of students scoring level 3 or above	66	65

**Table 8. FY15 Spring Civics EOC Results for First Time Test Takers in Five Largest Florida Districts: Percentage of Students Scoring Level 3 or Above**

	Overall
Palm Beach	66
Broward	65
Hillsborough	67
Miami-Dade	61
Orange	64

**Table 9: FY13-FY15 Science FCAT 2.0: Percentage of Students Scoring Level 3 or Above**

Year	Grade 5		Grade 8	
	PB	FL	PB	FL
FY2013	60	53	49	47
FY2014	57	54	51	49
FY2015	55	53	53	48

**Table 10. FY13-FY15 FCAT 2.0 Science Results for Grades 5 and 8 for the Five Largest Florida Districts: Percentage of Students Scoring Level 3 or Above**

	Grade 5			Grade 8		
	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY13	FY14	FY15
Palm Beach	60	57	55	49	51	53
Broward	49	49	50	46	47	46
Hillsborough	52	56	53	45	46	46
Miami-Dade	51	51	49	42	44	41
Orange	55	57	53	47	49	49

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

Schools will 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 Karen Whetsell, Assistant Superintendent, Division of Teaching and Learning, at 357-1113. If you have questions about the results, please contact Mark Howard, Chief, Division of Performance Accountability at 434-8851.

RA/KO/MH:bs

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