



**THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
PALM BEACH COUNTY, FL**

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MEMORANDUM

September 30, 2015

TO: School Board Members

FROM: David W. Christiansen, Ed.D., Deputy Superintendent/Chief of Schools 

THROUGH: Dr. Robert Avossa, Superintendent

SUBJECT: SPRING FY2015 FLORIDA STANDARD ASSESSMENTS (FSA) RESULTS: END-OF-COURSE (EOC) ALGEBRA 1, ALGEBRA 2, AND GEOMETRY

The Florida Department of Education (FDOE) has released the FY2015 Spring Assessment results for the Florida Standard Assessments (FSA) EOC Algebra 1, Algebra 2, and Geometry. In 2015, the following numbers of School District of Palm Beach County (SDPBC) students participated in EOC assessments¹: 13,413 in Algebra 1, 10,428 in Algebra 2, and 13,099 in Geometry.

This is the baseline year for these tests. HB 7069 was passed by the Legislature and called for an independent third-party review of the 2014-2015 FSA prior to results being used for educator evaluations or school grades. The FDOE has confirmed that the FSA is valid². However, SDPBC officials have raised several concerns about the validity of FSA in terms of administration of the tests, particularly the computer-based portion of the assessment, the alignment of Florida's standards with the test items, and the use of FSA scores to evaluate the performance of students, teachers and schools.³

¹ FY2015 is the first time the T-scores are reported for FSA EOC Algebra 1, Algebra 2, and Geometry assessments; therefore, no annual comparisons are available.

² Wiley, A., Hembry, T. R., Buckendahl, C. W., Forte, E., Towles, E., & Nebelsick-Gullett, L. (2015). *Independent verification of the psychometric validity for the Florida Standards Assessment*. Florida Department of Education, Tallahassee, Florida. Link: <http://www.fldoe.org/newsroom/latest-news/department-of-education-independent-review-confirms-florida-standards-assessment-is-valid.stml>.

³ For details, please see the following link: <http://news.palmbeachschools.org/districtnews/2015/09/02/school-district-officials-concerned-with-fsa-despite-validity-study/>

Results of the FY2015 FSA test administration are reported as T-scores⁴ for State, District and School comparisons. Preliminary individual student scores will be reported after State Percentile Ranks⁵ unit standards are set. State will provide students and parents with individual student score reports. Achievement levels (1-5) have not yet been established and will be reported at a later date.

Overall, the SDPBC outperformed the State in Algebra 1, Algebra 2 and Geometry. A preliminary analysis of the FY2015 EOC results revealed the following:

- The SDPBC had higher mean T-scores than Florida in Algebra 1, Algebra 2, and Geometry (Table 1).
- The SDPBC and Broward had the highest mean T-scores in Algebra 1 when compared with the seven largest districts in the State (Table 2).

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 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.

RMA/DWC/KO/MH/SRR /RP/BS:wI

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

⁴ The T-score is a standardized score that provides each student with a scale score (ranging from 20-80) which can be compared to the State average of 50. Please see Addendum for details on T-scores.

⁵ Please see Addendum for details on percentile ranks.

September 30, 2015

ATTACHMENT FOR: MEMORANDUM: SPRING FY2015 FLORIDA STANDARD ASSESSMENTS (FSA) RESULTS:
END-OF-COURSE (EOC) ALGEBRA 1, ALGEBRA 2, AND GEOMETRY**Table 1. FY2015 Spring EOC Results: Percentage of Students by Mean T-Scores**

Subject	SDPBC	Florida
Algebra 1	50	49
Algebra 2	49	48
Geometry	50	49

**Table 2. FY2015 Spring FSA EOC Results for Seven Largest Florida Districts and Florida:
Mean T-Scores of Students**

	Algebra 1	Algebra 2	Geometry
Palm Beach	50	49	50
Broward	50	50	50
Duval	46	44	46
Hillsborough	49	50	51
Miami-Dade	48	45	48
Orange	48	44	50
Pinellas	46	50	50
Florida	49	48	49

Addendum

Florida Standards Assessments (FSA)

This school year, students have taken the FY2015 Florida Standards Assessment (FSA) tests on the new Florida Standards. These tests were administered for the first time in English Language Arts (ELA), Mathematics, Algebra 1, Algebra 2, and Geometry.

Since these tests are based on the new Florida Standards, achievement levels (1-5) like those reported previously for FCAT have not yet been established by the State. To report on the performance of students on the first year of a Florida Standards Assessment or end-of-course assessment, the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) reports student scores: T-scores, State Percentile Ranks and Percentage Passing (only for ELA Grade 10 and Algebra 1). Each of these scores compares an individual's performance to the performance of all students who took the end of course assessment or Florida Standards Assessment in Florida.

T-Scores

The T-score is a standardized score that provides each student with a scale score (ranging from 20-80), which can be compared to the State average of 50.

Percentile Rank

The percentile rank relates a student's test score to those of all of the students that took the same test. For example, a test score that is greater than or equal to 80% of the test scores of students taking the test is said to be at the 80th percentile rank. (See Table 1.)

The relationship of T-scores to percentile ranks is given in the diagram below. (See Table 1.)

TABLE 1

