



SCHOOL DISTRICT
PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA

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December 7, 2010

MEMORANDUM

TO: School Board Members
School District of Palm Beach County

FROM: Ann Killets
Chief Learning Officer

THROUGH: Arthur C. Johnson, Ph.D.
Superintendent

SUBJECT: RELEASE OF THE FY2010 ANNUAL REPORT CARD FOR HIGH SCHOOLS

On December 7, 2010, the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) released the 2010 Annual Report Card for high schools. Beginning with the FY2010 school year, the high school report contains additional indicators not reported previously (graduation rate, participation and performance in accelerated coursework, and college readiness).¹

A review of the FY2010 school grades for high schools in the School District of Palm Beach County (SDPBC) revealed the following.

- In FY2010, more than half (54%) of the high schools earned an "A," and 86% earned an "A" or "B." The District outperformed the State by 24 percentage points in "A's" and 15 percentage points in "A's" and "B's" combined (see Table 1).
- From FY2009 to FY2010, the District had a greater increase in "A's", 24 percentage points, than that of the State, 13 percentage points (see Table 1).
- In FY2010, only two high schools, both charter, earned a grade less than "C" (see Tables 2 and 3).
- Of the new indicators, the SDPBC scored highest in average Overall Graduation Rate Points and lowest in average College Readiness Math Points (see Table 4).

Tables of high school grades, as well as graduation rate, accelerated coursework, and college readiness data are attached, and are also available on the District web site at <http://www.palmbeachschools.org/dre/documents/FY10HSGradesExecSum.pdf>. The FDOE has published the Florida 2010 Annual Report Card for high schools at <http://schoolgrades.fldoe.org>.

¹ Prior to FY2010, high school grades were based only on FCAT results. See the attached FDOE guide sheet, *Grading Florida's Public Schools, 2009-10*, for details regarding the calculation of high school grades.

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Palm Beach County Schools – Rated "A" by the Florida Department of Education 2005-2010
"Home of Florida's first LEED Gold Certified School"

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

For questions regarding high school grades, contact Dean Stecker, Director of Research and Evaluation at 432-6376. For questions regarding graduation, accelerated coursework, and college readiness, contact Alison Adler, Chief, Division of Safety and Learning Environment at 982-0900 or Constance Tuman-Rugg, Assistant Superintendent, Division of Curriculum at 434-8549. For questions concerning specific schools, contact the area superintendents or school principals.

ACJ/MB/DS

Attachments

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

Table 1. Number and Percent of Letter Grades for High Schools in the SDPBC and Florida

School Type	Year	A		B		C		D		F		Total
		Count	Pct	Count	Pct	Count	Pct	Count	Pct	Count	Pct	
SDPBC High Schools	FY2010	14	61%	7	30%	2	9%	0	0%	0	0%	23
	FY2009	8	35%	6	26%	4	17%	5	22%	0	0%	23
SDPBC Charters	FY2010	1	20%	2	40%	0	0%	1	20%	1	20%	5
	FY2009	0	0%	0	0%	1	25%	3	75%	0	0%	4
SDPBC Total	FY2010	15	54%	9	32%	2	7%	1	4%	1	4%	28
	FY2009	8	30%	6	22%	5	19%	8	30%	0	0%	27
Florida Total	FY2010	140	30%	192	41%	69	15%	58	12%	11	2%	470
	FY2009*	68	17%	98	24%	110	27%	114	28%	18	4%	408

*The State did not include combination schools in the Florida Total for FY2009.

Table 2. Letter Grades for High Schools in the SDPBC and Florida

	FY2009			FY2010			
	FCAT Points	Non-FCAT Points	School Grade	FCAT Points	Non-FCAT Points	Total Points	School Grade
A. W. Dreyfoos School of The Arts	667	--	A	664	798	1462	A
Atlantic High	506	--	B	498	695	1193	B
Boca Raton High	612	--	A	616	789	1405	A
Boynton Bch Community High	447	--	C	395	632	1027	B
Forest Hill High	474	--	C	496	578	1074	B
Glades Central High	425	--	D	407	635	1042	C
John I. Leonard High	441	--	C	486	602	1088	A
Jupiter High	588	--	A	600	732	1332	A
Lake Worth High	420	--	D	475	615	1090	A
Olympic Heights High	520	--	B	558	725	1283	A
Pahokee Middle/Senior High	442	--	C	467	655	1047	B
Palm Beach Central High	497	--	B	561	734	1295	A
Palm Beach Gardens High	512	--	B	487	654	1141	B
Palm Beach Lakes High	424	--	D	418	552	970	C
Park Vista Community High	556	--	A	585	717	1302	A
Royal Palm Beach High	461	--	D	497	585	1082	B
Santaluces High	462	--	D	525	589	1114	A
Seminole Ridge Comm. High	516	--	B	560	752	1312	A
Spanish River High	624	--	A	629	760	1389	A
Suncoast High	684	--	A	676	800	1476	A
W.T. Dwyer High	499	--	B	513	678	1191	B
Wellington High	573	--	A	565	682	1247	A
West Boca Raton Comm. High	596	--	A	583	735	1318	A

-- indicates not applicable

Table 3. Letter Grades for Charter High Schools in the SDPBC

	FY2009			FY2010			
	FCAT Points	Non-FCAT Points	School Grade	FCAT Points	Non-FCAT Points	Total Points	School Grade
G-Star Schools of the Arts	489	--	C	524	612	1136	A
Inlet Grove	432	--	D	495	683	1178	B
Leadership Academy West	407	--	--	361	--	--	F
Riviera Beach Maritime Academy	433	--	D	466	--	--	D
South Tech Academy	411	--	D	473	644	1117	B

-- indicates not applicable or no grade received

Table 4. FY2009 and FY2010 Graduation Rate, Accelerated Coursework, and College Readiness Results for High Schools in the SDPBC

	Graduation						Accelerated Coursework						College Readiness					
	Overall Rate			At-Risk Rate			Participation			Performance			Reading			Math		
	FY09	FY10	Points	FY09	FY10	Points	FY09	FY10	Points	FY09	FY10	Points	FY09	FY10	Points	FY09	FY10	Points
A. W. Dreyfoos School of The Arts	99	100	200	85	100	100	100	100	200	97	100	100	84	96	100	78	88	98
Atlantic High	84	88	184	78	84	90	53	64	150	100	100	100	86	94	100	67	69	71
Boca Raton High	88	93	196	70	84	98	67	94	200	85	100	100	74	88	100	63	79	95
Boynton Bch Community High	66	80	188	62	81	100	13	63	166	47	39	39	52	71	90	29	39	49
Forest Hill High	75	83	182	68	71	74	24	44	128	60	57	57	69	76	83	46	50	54
Glades Central High	80	82	168	76	80	84	17	70	180	49	70	90	58	60	62	33	42	51
John I. Leonard High	78	83	176	69	75	81	24	54	148	65	69	73	61	70	79	43	44	45
Jupiter High	91	95	198	74	82	90	43	69	178	94	79	74	76	90	100	68	80	92
Lake Worth High	80	84	176	71	72	73	33	54	148	64	53	48	67	80	93	53	65	77
Olympic Heights High	83	88	186	71	82	93	32	86	200	78	74	74	71	85	99	59	66	73
Pahokee Middle/Senior High	71	81	182	66	78	90	29	60	160	31	80	100	82	69	64	33	46	59
Palm Beach Central High	90	94	196	87	89	91	31	76	192	93	83	78	73	83	93	56	70	84
Palm Beach Gardens High	85	87	178	77	81	85	41	59	154	59	58	58	72	87	100	53	66	79
Palm Beach Lakes High	68	77	172	65	75	85	19	49	138	71	46	41	73	75	77	37	38	39
Park Vista Community High	92	94	192	78	84	90	37	71	182	86	74	69	77	88	99	69	77	85
Royal Palm Beach High	78	86	188	61	76	91	16	45	130	83	60	55	68	66	66	43	49	55
Santaluces High	78	80	164	71	74	77	25	50	140	73	55	50	60	76	92	42	54	66
Seminole Ridge Comm. High	85	91	194	71	81	91	36	86	200	66	86	100	70	80	90	57	67	77
Spanish River High	92	97	200	67	83	99	63	74	170	99	100	100	81	89	97	72	83	94
Suncoast High	100	100	200	92	100	100	100	100	200	100	100	100	92	96	100	84	95	100
W.T. Dwyer High	84	87	180	72	76	80	40	77	194	72	81	90	76	74	74	58	59	60
Wellington High	86	89	184	68	69	70	51	66	162	93	80	75	75	93	100	65	78	91
West Boca Raton Comm. High	94	94	188	75	82	89	49	83	200	85	79	79	85	89	93	76	81	86
Average			93*			88			85*			76			89			73

* These numbers have been divided by two to make them comparable to the unweighted points.

Table 5. FY2009 and FY2010 Graduation Rate, Accelerated Coursework, and College Readiness Results for Charter High Schools in the SDPBC

	Graduation						Accelerated Coursework						College Readiness					
	Overall Rate			At-Risk Rate			Participation			Performance			Reading			Math		
	FY09	FY10	Points	FY09	FY10	Points	FY09	FY10	Points	FY09	FY10	Points	FY09	FY10	Points	FY09	FY10	Points
G-Star Schools of the Arts	83	97	200	79	92	100	37	40	86	54	61	68	60	79	98	48	54	60
Inlet Grove	85	89	186	82	90	98	22	100	200	59	67	75	70	74	78	42	44	46
Leadership Academy West	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Riviera Beach Maritime Academy	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
South Tech Academy	78	90	200	66	83	100	9	57	154	44	55	66	45	64	83	19	30	41

-- indicates not applicable

Grading Florida's Public Schools, 2009-10

FCAT Performance and Learning Gains: 100% of Grade for Elementary and Middle Schools, 50% of Grade for High Schools

Schools are awarded one point for each percent of students who score high on the FCAT and/or make annual learning gains (800 possible points).

Scoring High on the FCAT

(400 possible points)

The Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) is the primary measure of students' achievement of the Sunshine State Standards. Student scores are classified into five achievement levels, with 1 being the lowest and 5 being the highest.

- ⇒ Schools earn one point for each percent of students who score at FCAT achievement levels 3, 4, or 5 in reading; one point for each percent of students who score at FCAT levels 3, 4, or 5 in mathematics; and one point for each percent of students who score at FCAT levels 3, 4, or 5 in science. (100 possible points each for reading, mathematics, and science)
- ⇒ Students earn a score of 1 to 6 on the FCAT writing exam. The earns grading points for writing based on the average of (a) the percent of students scoring 3 or higher and (b) the percent of students scoring 4 or higher. (100 possible points for writing)

Making Annual Learning Gains

(400 possible points)

Schools earn one point for each percent of students who make learning gains in reading (100 possible points) and one point for each percent who make learning gains in math (100 possible points). Students can demonstrate annual learning gains in one of the following ways:

1. Score at a higher achievement level than in the previous year (applies to FCAT results and Florida Alternate Assessment [FAA] results for students with disabilities).
 2. Maintain a proficient achievement level (applies to the FCAT and FAA).
 3. For students taking the FCAT who remain at level 1 or 2, demonstrate more than one year's growth through increased developmental scale scores (does not include retakes).
- ⇒ Special attention is given to the reading and mathematics gains of students in the lowest 25% at FCAT levels 1, 2, or 3 in each school. Schools earn one point for each percent of the lowest performing students who make learning gains from the previous year in reading and mathematics (100 possible points for each subject). At least 50% of these students must make gains in reading and mathematics for the school to make adequate progress. Schools that fall short of 50% can still meet this requirement if they show annual improvement in this percentage.

In addition, high schools are eligible for 10 bonus points if at least 50% of the students retaking the grade 10 FCAT in reading and math attain scores required for graduation in each subject area.

School Grading Scale for Elementary and Middle Schools

Grade A	Grade B	Grade C	Grade D	Grade F
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 525 points or more • Meet adequate progress of lowest 25% in reading and mathematics. • Test at least 95% of eligible students. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 495 to 524 points • Meet adequate progress of lowest 25% in reading and mathematics within two years. • Test at least 90% of eligible students. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 435 to 494 points • Meet adequate progress of lowest 25% in reading and mathematics within two years. • Test at least 90% of eligible students. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 395 to 434 points • Test at least 90% of eligible students. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fewer than 395 points

Note: Schools that fail to test at least 90% of eligible students are initially assigned a grade of "I" (for incomplete data). Such schools are further investigated to determine whether sufficient data are available to accurately assign a regular school grade. The Commissioner of Education also has the authority to assign a lowered grade to a school that fails to test at least 90% of eligible students.

Which students are included in school grade calculations? As in previous years, the components for scoring high on the FCAT include only standard curriculum students, speech impaired students, gifted students, hospital homebound students, and English language learners (ELLs) with more than two years in an English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) program who are enrolled in the same school in both October and February. All students, including students with disabilities and ELL students, are included in the learning gains components of the school grade calculation.

What happens if the lowest performing students in the school (the low 25%) do not make "adequate progress" in reading and mathematics? For schools that would otherwise be graded A, B, or C but do not meet the adequate progress requirement, the final (assigned) grade will be reduced by one letter grade.

Grading Florida's High Schools in 2009-10

50% of Grade Based on FCAT & Learning Gains, 50% Based on New Non-FCAT Components

As established in s. 1008.34, F.S., for school grading in 2009-10 and thereafter, Florida's high schools are graded using the FCAT and learning gains components described in the grading criteria for elementary and middle schools (worth 800 points), plus several non-FCAT based components that account for 50 percent of the high school grade (also worth 800 points). The non-FCAT-based grading components include the following measures (note that measures counting for more than 100 points are double-weighted):

- Graduation rate: the percentage of students graduating with a standard or special diploma within four years of initial enrollment in grade 9, adjusting for transfers. Double-weighted. (200 points)
- Graduation rate for at-risk students. At-risk students are those who scored at Level 2 or below on both the FCAT reading and FCAT math tests in grade 8. (100 points)
- Accelerated coursework participation for students in grades 9 – 12, based on exams taken for AP, IB, AICE, and industry certification, as well as dual enrollment course enrollments. This component measures the combined weighted student participation count divided by the membership count of students in grades 11-12. Students in grades 9 and 10 may only be included as participants in the numerator if they have successful completions (passing test scores, or, for dual enrollment, passing course grades of "C" or higher). Double weighted. (200 points)
- Accelerated coursework performance: the weighted measure of successful completions in accelerated coursework divided by the count of accelerated coursework participants. (100 points)
- Postsecondary readiness: calculated separately for reading and math, the count of on-time graduates scoring "ready" or higher on ACT, SAT, or Common Placement Test (CPT) examinations divided by the total count of on-time graduates scoring at FCAT level 3 or higher. Cut scores for readiness are provided online at <http://www.fldoe.org/articulation/perfCPT/default.asp>. (100 points for math; 100 points for reading)
- Annual growth or decline in the measures mentioned above. Schools that demonstrate an annual increase in their component points receive additional points based on the annual increase in points, up to 20 points per component (up to 40 points for double-weighted components). Schools lose five points for this component if performance declines by 10 or more percentage points annually (with up to ten points subtracted for double-weighted components).
- In addition to meeting adequate progress requirements (learning gains) for low-performing students and requirements to test at least 90% of students (95% to qualify for an "A"), high schools that would otherwise earn an "A" on points must meet a statewide target of 75% for the graduation rate of at-risk students or show sufficient annual improvement in that rate to qualify for a grade of "A." Sufficient annual improvement = 1% or more for schools that have an at-risk graduation rate of at least 65%. Schools that have an at-risk graduation rate of below 65% must show at least a 5% annual increase in the rate to meet this requirement.

Grade Scale for High Schools and Combination Schools (Based on a 1600-Point Scale)

A = At least 1,050 points, B = 990 to 1,049 points, C = 870 to 989 points, D = 790 to 869 points, F = Fewer than 790 points.

Grading Combination Schools (Weighting Factors)

For school grading purposes, combination schools serving the high school grades will be classified as either K-12 schools or 6-12 schools based on the closest match for the range of grades served. These schools will have points calculated using the same components and grading scale applicable to high schools, except the following weighting factor will be applied to the subtotals for points on the FCAT-based components and non-FCAT-based components.

K-12 schools: Total points for FCAT components = 80% of grade. Total points for Non-FCAT components = 20% of grade.

6-12 schools: Total points for FCAT components = 70% of grade. Total points for Non-FCAT components = 30% of grade.



Florida Department of Education
Dr. Eric J. Smith, Commissioner