



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF  
PALM BEACH COUNTY, FL

PAUL HOUCHENS, PH.D  
DIRECTOR

JAMIE WYATT  
CHIEF OF STAFF

RESEARCH & EVALUATION  
3300 FOREST HILL BOULEVARD, B-246  
WEST PALM BEACH, FL 33406

ADAM MILLER, PH.D.  
CHIEF OF PERFORMANCE  
ACCOUNTABILITY

PHONE: 561-434-8469 / FAX: 561-357-7611  
[WWW.PALMBEACHSCHOOLS.ORG](http://WWW.PALMBEACHSCHOOLS.ORG)

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

January 23, 2024

**TO:** School Board Members  
**THROUGH:** Michael J. Burke, Superintendent *MJB*  
**FROM:** Jamie Wyatt, Chief of Staff *JW*  
Adam Miller, Ph.D., Chief of Performance Accountability *AM*  
**SUBJECT:** FY23 FEDERAL HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATES

On January 22, 2023, the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) released high school graduation rates for the State of Florida and the District. The FY23 Federal High School Graduation Rate includes standard diplomas but excludes special diplomas and General Education Diplomas (GEDs). Students with Disabilities (SWD) on Access Points curriculum are working to earn a standard diploma and are included as graduates, if successful.<sup>1</sup> It should be noted that due to COVID-19, assessment requirements for graduation were waived for FY20 and FY21 seniors ([Emergency Order No. 2021-EO-02](#)) who had yet to meet them. This fact should be kept in mind when examining longitudinal trends.

### Summary of Results

In FY23, the District's overall graduation rate was 90.5%. In addition, the District's overall graduation rate exceeded Florida and the six other large urban school districts; however, Miami-Dade was second at 90.3%. When compared to FY22 and FY19 (the last year prior to COVID), graduation rates increased overall and for each subgroup.

From FY22 to FY23, the District graduation rate:

- Increased from 89.0% to 90.5% overall and from 92.8% to 94.1% for District-operated schools.
- Increased for Black students by 2.9, for Hispanic students by 1.9, for English Language Learners (ELL) by 6.8, for Free or Reduced-Price Lunch (FRL) students by 1.7, and for Students with Disabilities (SWD) by 2.5 percentage points.
- Remained stable for White students (increased < 1 percentage point).

During the five years from FY19 to FY23, the District graduation rate:

- Increased by 3.4 percentage points from 87.1% to 90.5%.
- Increased for Black (3.1 percentage points), Hispanic (3.5 percentage points), White (2.7 percentage points), and FRL (3.9 percentage points) students.
- Increased to a larger extent for ELL (7.4 percentage points) and SWD (6.2 percentage points) students.

The attached tables provide five-year (FY19-FY23) historical summaries. Table 1 reports the graduation rates for Florida, the District, and six other large urban school districts. Table 2 shows the graduation rates for Black,

<sup>1</sup> Detailed information about the Federal High School Graduation Rate is provided in Appendix A.

Hispanic, White, ELL, FRL, and SWD students. Table 3 reports the graduation rates for District-operated and Charter schools. Tables 4 to 6 report graduation rates for District-operated high schools, Charter high schools, and Alternative high schools, respectively. Notably for District-operated schools:

- Twenty-one (87.5%) of the 24 District-operated high schools had graduation rates of 90% or higher.
- Six schools had graduation rates of 99% or higher: Alexander W. Dreyfoos, Olympic Heights, Spanish River, Suncoast, Village Academy (100%), and West Boca Raton High.
- Nine (37.5%) increased their graduation rates by 2 or more percentage points from FY22.
- Fifteen (62.5%) showed a positive 5-year change in excess of 1 percentage point. Village Academy showed the largest 5-year change with an 18.7 percentage point increase followed by Lake Worth Community High with a 9.0 percentage point increase.
- Of the District Alternative and ESE centers; Crossroads Academy, Riviera Beach Prep, Turning Points, Royal Palm School, and Palm Beach Virtual increased their graduation rates from FY19 to FY23.
- Palm Beach Virtual had a graduation rate of 100%.

**Next Steps for Schools:**

Using the Executive Summary and the Graduation Rate Analysis Tool<sup>2</sup> (anticipated availability by January 29, 2024), reflect on the following questions:

1. How does our overall rate compare to the prior year? The last five years? What trends do you see?
2. Are there differences between groups of students by race/ethnicity or gender?
3. Which of the “W” (withdrawal) codes had the greatest increase or decrease?
4. What percentage of students compared to the prior year are Non-graduates, Dropouts? Why?
5. Did the percentage of Graduates who met the assessment requirement with a concordant score increase or decrease? Which students? Why? How can we better support them?
6. Did the percentage of Non-graduates, who did not meet the credit or GPA requirement, increase or decrease? Why? Which students? How can we better support them?
7. What are we doing to monitor students beginning in the ninth grade and tracking them to graduation?

If you have questions about graduation rates, please contact Dr. Adam Miller, Chief of Performance Accountability, 561-434-8851. For information regarding District initiatives to increase graduation rates, please contact Jamie Wyatt, Chief of Staff, 561-969-5829. For questions regarding specific schools, contact the appropriate Regional/Instructional Superintendent.

MJB/JW/AM:ph

- c: Academic and Operating Chiefs  
Regional/Instructional Superintendents  
Academic Directors  
Principals

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<sup>2</sup> The Graduation Rate Analysis Tool will be available at <https://www.palmbeachschools.org/Page/514>



**Table 1. FY19-FY23 Federal Graduation Rates for Florida and Large Urban Districts**

	FY19	FY20*	FY21*	FY22	FY23	1-Year Change	5-Year Change
Florida	86.9	90.0	90.1	87.3	88.0	0.7	1.1
<b>Palm Beach</b>	<b>87.1</b>	<b>90.2</b>	<b>91.0</b>	<b>89.0</b>	<b>90.5</b>	1.5	3.4
Broward	86.2	89.4	89.1	87.2	88.7	1.5	2.5
Dade	85.6	89.6	90.1	88.2	90.3	2.1	4.7
Duval	86.5	90.2	89.6	85.6	87.2	1.6	0.7
Hillsborough	86.2	88.8	89.2	87.9	86.2	-1.7	0.0
Orange	88.4	90.4	90.4	87.0	89.1	2.1	0.7
Pinellas	88.4	91.5	92.0	88.1	87.7	-0.4	-0.7

\*FY20 and FY21 students were able to graduate without certain requirements due to the COVID-19.

**Table 2. FY19-FY23 Federal Graduation Rates for Florida and District by Student Subgroup**

	Subgroup	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	1-Year Change	5-Year Change
Florida	Black	81.5	86.6	87.1	82.0	83.2	1.2	1.7
	Hispanic	85.9	89.5	89.4	85.9	86.8	0.9	0.9
	White	90.2	91.7	91.8	90.6	91.0	0.4	0.8
	ELL	75.0	85.7	86.1	73.0	76.1	3.1	1.1
	FRL	82.9	86.9	87.2	83.1	83.8	0.7	0.9
	SWD	80.6	82.6	82.3	83.5	85.5	2.0	4.9
Palm Beach	Black	83.6	88.6	88.8	83.8	86.7	2.9	3.1
	Hispanic	84.9	87.6	88.6	86.5	88.4	1.9	3.5
	White	93.0	94.3	94.7	95.1	95.7	0.6	2.7
	ELL	68.7	80.2	82.7	69.3	76.1	6.8	7.4
	FRL	82.7	87.4	88.0	84.9	86.6	1.7	3.9
	SWD	82.6	85.1	83.7	86.3	88.8	2.5	6.2

**Table 3. FY19-FY23 Federal Graduation Rates for District Operated and Charter Schools\***

	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	1-Year Change	5-Year Change
District Operated Schools	91.6	94.4	95.9	92.8	94.1	1.3	2.5
Charter Schools	52.6	57.1	57.8	61.1	67.1	6.0	14.5

\* Estimated from School level Graduation Data

Table 4. FY19-FY23 Federal Graduation Rates for District Operated High Schools

Region	School#	School	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	1-Year Change	5-Year Change
C	0581	FOREST HILL COMMUNITY HIGH	91.6	90.1	95.0	85.9	91.8	5.9	0.2
C	1361	JOHN I. LEONARD HIGH	91.7	93.8	93.5	91.0	93.5	2.5	1.8
C	0691	LAKE WORTH HIGH	78.8	91.1	95.4	90.7	87.8	-2.9	9.0
C	2631	PALM BEACH CENTRAL HIGH	95.9	97.6	96.5	95.4	94.4	-1.0	-1.5
C	2331	ROYAL PALM BEACH HIGH	91.5	93.8	95.0	91.8	94.5	2.7	3.0
C	2191	WELLINGTON HIGH	92.3	94.9	97.8	97.8	97.9	0.1	5.6
G	2301	GLADES CENTRAL HIGH	91.2	94.2	87.5	90.8	97.2	6.4	6.0
G	1771	PAHOKEE MIDDLE-SENIOR HIGH	95.5	98.3	99.0	100.0	98.9	-1.1	3.4
N	0395	ALEXANDER W DREYFOOS JR HIGH	99.7	100.0	99.4	99.4	99.7	0.3	0.0
N	0081	JUPITER HIGH	92.8	94.6	95.8	95.1	95.4	0.3	2.6
N	1371	PALM BEACH GARDENS HIGH	90.4	96.7	94.6	90.0	92.4	2.4	2.0
N	1851	PALM BEACH LAKES HIGH	83.1	87.8	91.6	79.7	84.1	4.4	1.0
N	3861	SEMINOLE RIDGE COMM. HIGH	91.7	91.6	97.3	96.0	98.1	2.1	6.4
N	0151	SUNCOAST COMMUNITY HIGH	100.0	99.5	100.0	99.0	99.7	0.7	-0.3
N	2201	WILLIAM T. DWYER HIGH	91.1	91.9	98.3	96.8	93.8	-3.0	2.7
S	0862	ATLANTIC HIGH	93.9	96.8	94.9	88.6	91.1	2.5	-2.8
S	0961	BOCA RATON COMMUNITY HIGH	96.1	98.0	98.7	96.5	96.8	0.3	0.7
S	2361	BOYNTON BEACH COMM. HIGH	85.7	88.4	90.0	80.7	88.1	7.4	2.4
S	2181	OLYMPIC HEIGHTS COMM. HIGH	98.5	99.6	99.6	100.0	99.8	-0.2	1.3
S	2001	PARK VISTA COMMUNITY HIGH	98.8	98.7	98.2	97.9	98.3	0.4	-0.5
S	1611	SANTALUCES COMMUNITY HIGH	93.6	95.8	97.6	92.1	92.8	0.7	-0.8
S	1681	SPANISH RIVER COMM. HIGH	97.7	100.0	99.8	100.0	99.7	-0.3	2.0
S	2811	VILLAGE ACADEMY CENTER	81.3	100.0	97.0	100.0	100.0	0.0	18.7
S	3251	WEST BOCA RATON HIGH	96.9	98.1	98.0	98.2	99.0	0.8	2.1

NR = Not Reported by FDOE or fewer than 10 students.

Table 5. FY19-FY23 Federal Graduation Rates for District Charter Schools

Region	School #	School	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	1-Year Change	5-Year Change
CH	3400	BELIEVERS ACADEMY	48.0	47.8	30.4	50.0	45.0	-5.0	-3.0
CH	2521	ED VENTURE CHARTER	37.5	33.3	33.3	28.0	33.3	5.3	-4.2
CH	3398	EVERGLADES PREP. ACADEMY	44.7	86.4	93.5	81.5	67.3	-14.2	22.6
CH	4081	FLORIDA FUTURES ACADEMY- NORTH	6.1	3.1	0.0	5.4	0.0	-5.4	-6.1
CH	3396	G-STAR	95.3	94.7	92.5	94.1	91.7	-2.4	-3.6
CH	1461	INLET GROVE COMMUNITY HIGH	90.8	98.2	97.4	95.4	99.5	4.1	8.7
CH	3971	MAVERICKS HS AT PALM SPRINGS	10.2	6.3	11.0	54.7	59.4	4.7	49.2



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: FY23 FEDERAL HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE

Region	School #	School	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	1-Year Change	5-Year Change
CH	3924	PALM BEACH MARITIME ACADEMY	91.2	100.0	100.0	89.7	92.9	3.2	1.7
CH	2941	PALM BEACH SCHOOL FOR AUTISM	100.0	100.0	100.0	92.3	NR		
CH	3401	QUANTUM HIGH	22.8	22.6	21.3	8.3	15.1	6.8	-7.7
CH	3391	SEAGULL ACADEMY	NR	NR	40.0	NR	NR		
CH	4111	SLAM HIGH SCHOOL PALM BEACH	NA	NA	NA	53.5	74.4	20.9	
CH	4103	SLAM BOCA	NA	NA	NA	100.0	89.4	-10.6	
CH	4013	SOMERSET ACADEMY CANYONS HIGH	91.8	95.0	98.6	96.7	97.8	1.1	6.0
CH	1571	SOUTH TECH ACADEMY	97.9	96.3	96.5	96.9	97.3	0.4	-0.6
CH	3083	LEARNING ACADEMY ELS CENTER	57.1	61.5	66.7	88.2	94.1	5.9	37.0
CH	3386	TOUSSAINT L'OUVERTURE HIGH	0.0	13.5	10.0	0.0	NR		
CH	3421	WORTHINGTON HIGH	14.6	12.5	27.5	9.4	22.3	12.9	7.7

NR = Not Reported by FDOE or fewer than 10 students.

NA = No 12<sup>th</sup> grade students enrolled

Table 6. FY19-FY23 Federal Graduation Rates for District Alternative Schools

Region	School #	School	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	1-Year Change	5-Year Change
AL	3423	ACCELERATION ACADEMY	NR	0.0	NR	NR	NR		
AL	3039	ALT. PROGRAM CENTRAL	18.2	10.0	NR	25.0	NR		
AL	4101	CATAPULT ACADEMY	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR		
AL	3101	CROSSROADS ACADEMY	58.1	42.9	81.8	52.5	61.0	8.5	2.9
AL	3024	HIGHRIDGE FAMILY CENTER	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR		
AL	3355	RIVIERA BEACH PREP & ACHIEVE	50.8	70.5	64.0	53.3	62.5	9.2	11.7
AL	3046	SOUTH INTENSIVE TRANSITION	NR	25.0	30.8	25.0	NR		
AL	0842	TURNING POINTS ACADEMY	15.0	39.1	0.0	15.4	43.8	28.4	28.8
DJ	3010	PACE CENTER FOR GIRLS	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR		
DJ	3002	PALM BEACH COUNTY JAIL	NR	NR	NR	37.5	52.6	15.1	
DJ	3354	PB JUVENILE CORRECTIONAL	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR		
DJ	3006	PB REGIONAL DETENTION CNTR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR		
ES	2411	INDIAN RIDGE	50.0	NR	NR	71.4	NR		
ES	1801	ROYAL PALM	52.6	70.6	87.5	100.0	82.6	-17.4	30.0
VS	7004	PALM BEACH VIRTUAL	97.1	98.1	100.0	100.0	100.0	0.0	2.9

NR = Not Reported by FDOE or fewer than 10 students.

**Appendix A: Federal Uniform Graduation Rate**

**Florida’s Change to Reporting the Federal Graduation Rate**

In October 2008, the U.S. Department of Education (USDOE) issued new directives for graduation rates. These new regulations require each state to calculate a four-year adjusted cohort rate, which follows students for four years after entering the ninth grade for the first time. The USDOE adopted this calculation method in an effort to streamline graduation rate calculations and establish uniform, accurate, and comparable rates across all states.

Starting with FY12, the school grade accountability system for the State of Florida changed from using the National Governors Association (NGA) rate to the Federal Graduation Rate. The Federal rate represents a higher standard than the NGA rate. Differences between the NGA rate and the Federal rate are described below.

		DENOMINATOR (Adjusted Cohort)	
	<b>Cohort Adjustments</b> (Students Removed from the Denominator)	<b>Graduates</b> (On-Time Graduates from the Denominator)	<b>Non-Graduates</b> (All Non-Graduates Remaining in the Denominator)
<b>NGA Rate</b> (Used for school years 2009-10 and 2010-11)	Transfers to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Other public high schools (including DJJs) or private high schools</li> <li>- Home-education programs</li> <li>- Adult-education programs*</li> <li>- Deceased students</li> </ul> * Adult-Ed GED diploma recipients are also classified as adult- education transfers for the NGA rate and are removed from the cohort.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Standard diploma recipients</li> <li>- Special diploma recipients</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dropouts</li> <li>- Certificate recipients</li> <li>- HS Exit Option GED* diploma recipients</li> <li>- Continuing enrollees who are not on-time graduates</li> </ul> * Adult-Ed GED diploma recipients are classified as adult-education transfers and removed from the cohort (they are not non-grads here).
<b>Federal Uniform Rate</b> (Used for school years 2011-12 and beyond)	Transfers to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Other public or private high schools (not including DJJs)</li> <li>- Home-education programs</li> <li>- Deceased students</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Standard diploma recipients</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dropouts</li> <li>- Certificate recipients</li> <li>- GED diploma recipients</li> <li>- Special diploma recipients</li> <li>- Continuing enrollees who are not on-time graduates,</li> <li>- Transfers to adult education programs or DJJ centers who are not standard diploma recipients</li> </ul>