



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF  
PALM BEACH COUNTY, FL

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## 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

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: FY23 FEDERAL HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE

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)   |  |
|---|---|---|--|
|   | Cohort Adjustments<br>(Students Removed from<br>the Denominator)  | Graduates<br>(On-Time Graduates<br>from the Denominator)  | Non-Graduates<br>(All Non-Graduates<br>Remaining in the<br>Denominator)  |
| <p><b>NGA Rate</b> (Used for school years 2009-10 and 2010-11)</p>            | <p>Transfers to:</p> <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> <p>* Adult-Ed GED diploma recipients are also classified as adult- education transfers for the NGA rate and are removed from the cohort.</p> | <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> <p>* Adult-Ed GED diploma recipients are classified as adult-education transfers and removed from the cohort (they are not non-grads here).</p> |
| <p><b>Federal Uniform Rate</b> (Used for school years 2011-12 and beyond)</p> | <p>Transfers to:</p> <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>                  |