



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
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MEMORANDUM

January 5, 2016

TO: School Board Members

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

THROUGH: Dr. Robert Avossa, Superintendent

SUBJECT: FY2015 FEDERAL HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATES

On January 5, 2016, the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) released graduation rates for the State of Florida and the School District of Palm Beach County (SDPBC). The Federal High School Graduation Rate¹ includes standard diplomas but excludes special diplomas and GEDs (General Education Diplomas).²

In FY2015, SDPBC outperformed Florida and six other large urban school districts³ and increased the graduation rate from FY2014.

Summary of Results

- From FY2014 to FY2015, the SDPBC
 - Increased the overall District graduation rate (includes both District operated⁴ and charter school students) from 77.9% to 79.4%
 - Increased graduation rates for District operated school students (84.3% to 85.3%) and charter school students⁵ (36.0% to 40.3%)
 - Increased the graduation rate for Black students by 4.3 percentage points (64.8% to 69.1%), and remained similar for Hispanic (76.3%) and White students (88.5%)
 - Increased the graduation rates among a majority of District operated high schools

¹ In FY2012, the FDOE accountability system began using the Federal High School Graduation Rate, which is a more rigorous standard than the National Governors Association (NGA) rate used previously.

² Detailed information about the Federal High School Graduation Rate is provided in Appendix A.

³ Florida school districts exceeding 100,000 students.

⁴ Includes students who also attended Alternative and DJJ school sites.

⁵ Both District operated school and charter school students are required to meet the Florida *Standard Diploma* requirements.

**FY2015 Federal High School Graduation Rate
January 5, 2016**

- From FY2011 to FY2015, the SDPBC
 - Increased the District graduation rate by 5.1 percentage points (from 74.3% to 79.4%), which includes both District operated and charter school student
 - Maintained a higher graduation rate than that of Florida for five consecutive years
 - Increased the graduation rate for Black students by 7.6 percentage points and increased the rate for Hispanic students by 6.5 percentage points

Table 1 reports the graduation rates for the past five years (FY2011 – FY2015) for Florida, the SDPBC, and the other large urban school districts. Tables 2 – 4 show the graduation rates for the past five years (FY2011 – FY2015) for Black, Hispanic, and White students. Table 5 reports the graduation rates for the past four years (FY2012 – FY2015) for SDPBC District operated and charter schools. Tables 6, 7 and 8 report graduation rates for District operated high schools, charter high schools, and alternative high schools, respectively.

If you have questions about graduation rates, please contact Mark Howard, Chief of Performance Accountability, at 434-8850. For information regarding SDPBC initiatives to increase graduation, please contact Karen Whetsell, Assistant Superintendent, Division of Curriculum and Learning Support, at 357-1113. For questions regarding specific schools, contact the appropriate area superintendent.

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

Attachments

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

FY2015 High School Federal Graduation Rate
January 5, 2016

Table 1. FY2011-FY2015 Federal Graduation Rate for Florida and Large Urban Districts*

| | FY2011 | FY2012 | FY2013 | FY2014 | FY2015 |
|-------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Florida | 70.6% | 74.5% | 75.6% | 76.1% | 77.8% |
| Palm Beach | 74.3% | 77.0% | 76.3% | 77.9% | 79.4% |
| Broward | 71.6% | 76.4% | 75.3% | 74.2% | 76.6% |
| Dade | 71.3% | 76.0% | 77.2% | 76.6% | 78.1% |
| Duval | 63.3% | 67.7% | 72.1% | 74.0% | 76.6% |
| Hillsborough | 69.3% | 72.6% | 74.1% | 73.5% | 76.0% |
| Orange | 71.4% | 73.9% | 75.9% | 74.6% | 77.6% |
| Pinellas | 65.2% | 72.0% | 71.9% | 76.2% | 78.3% |

*Florida school districts exceeding 100,000 students.

Table 2. FY2011-FY2015 Federal Graduation Rate for Florida and SDPBC for Black Students

| | FY2011 | FY2012 | FY2013 | FY2014 | FY2015 |
|---------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Florida | 58.6% | 63.7% | 64.6% | 64.7% | 67.9% |
| SDPBC | 61.5% | 64.8% | 63.8% | 64.8% | 69.1% |

Table 3. FY2011-FY2015 Federal Graduation Rate for Florida and SDPBC for Hispanic Students

| | FY2011 | FY2012 | FY2013 | FY2014 | FY2015 |
|---------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Florida | 69.4% | 72.9% | 74.9% | 75.0% | 76.7% |
| SDPBC | 69.8% | 72.2% | 75.0% | 76.7% | 76.3% |

Table 4. FY2011-FY2015 Federal Graduation Rate for Florida and SDPBC for White Students

| | FY2011 | FY2012 | FY2013 | FY2014 | FY2015 |
|---------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Florida | 76.2% | 79.4% | 80.5% | 81.7% | 82.7% |
| SDPBC | 85.3% | 86.6% | 85.5% | 87.8% | 88.5% |

Table 5. FY2012-FY2015 Federal Graduation Rate for SDPBC District Operated and Charter Students

| | FY2012 | FY2013 | FY2014 | FY2015 |
|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| SDPBC District Operated | 80.4% | 81.6% | 84.3% | 85.3% |
| SDPBC Charter | 45.4% | 37.3% | 36.0% | 40.3% |

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Table 6. FY2011-2015 Federal Graduation Rates for SDPBC District Operated High Schools

| | FY2011 | FY2012 | FY2013 | FY2014 | FY2015 |
|----------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| AW Dreyfoos School of Arts | 99.1 | 100.0 | 99.4 | 99.4 | 100.0 |
| Atlantic High | 83.6 | 86.2 | 85.7 | 90.0 | 92.2 |
| Boca Raton High | 85.8 | 89.6 | 91.0 | 93.9 | 91.6 |
| Boynton Beach High | 65.5 | 74.7 | 77.3 | 78.3 | 80.2 |
| Forest Hill High | 74.7 | 68.6 | 79.2 | 77.2 | 83.0 |
| Glades Central High | 65.5 | 76.1 | 71.1 | 70.3 | 64.6 |
| John I Leonard High | 69.3 | 72.7 | 74.2 | 76.6 | 78.7 |
| Jupiter High | 87.7 | 88.6 | 88.5 | 90.2 | 92.5 |
| Lake Worth High | 69.8 | 70.7 | 76.5 | 73.3 | 78.8 |
| Olympic Heights High | 82.9 | 81.5 | 86.9 | 89.1 | 92.6 |
| Pahokee Middle/Senior High | 72.0 | 75.0 | 74.3 | 89.6 | 85.5 |
| Palm Beach Central High | 91.1 | 91.3 | 91.5 | 90.4 | 91.3 |
| Palm Beach Gardens High | 75.3 | 77.5 | 80.4 | 83.0 | 81.7 |
| Palm Beach Lakes High | 63.4 | 64.9 | 67.5 | 67.7 | 72.0 |
| Park Vista High | 89.1 | 89.7 | 92.2 | 89.6 | 92.8 |
| Royal Palm Beach High | 70.9 | 74.9 | 76.0 | 77.2 | 82.8 |
| Santaluces High | 75.9 | 77.8 | 78.3 | 83.2 | 84.0 |
| Seminole Ridge High | 82.2 | 83.7 | 82.7 | 87.5 | 88.1 |
| Spanish River High | 91.9 | 94.5 | 90.9 | 93.7 | 90.3 |
| Suncoast High | 99.7 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 99.2 | 99.4 |
| Village Academy Center | 77.8 | 86.8 | 89.7 | 85.7 | 94.4 |
| Wellington High | 83.2 | 86.2 | 82.4 | 88.7 | 87.0 |
| West Boca Raton High | 87.1 | 86.9 | 87.7 | 86.5 | 85.7 |
| W.T. Dwyer High | 80.9 | 84.3 | 82.1 | 89.2 | 91.0 |

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Table 7. FY2011-2015 Federal Graduation Rates for SDPBC Charter High Schools

| | FY2011 | FY2012 | FY2013 | FY2014 | FY2015 |
|--------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Believers Academy | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 5.6 |
| Ed Venture Charter | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Everglades Preparatory Academy | 16.7 | 20.0 | 34.0 | 23.3 | 28.3 |
| Excel Leadership Academy | 1.6 | 1.0 | 1.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| G-Star | 91.5 | 96.1 | 93.3 | 96.7 | 95.9 |
| Gulfstream LIFE Academy | * | * | * | * | 0.0 |
| iGeneration Empowerment | * | * | 16.7 | 9.1 | * |
| Inlet Grove High | 82.8 | 92.1 | 86.3 | 86.6 | 83.7 |
| Leadership Academy West | 57.1 | 65.6 | 69.0 | 52.9 | 52.0 |
| Mavericks High of Palm Springs | * | 10.1 | 5.8 | 12.0 | 13.2 |
| Quantum High | * | * | 5.5 | 8.5 | 5.7 |
| Renaissance Learning Academy | * | * | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Riviera Beach Maritime Academy | 81.8 | 79.3 | 81.6 | 90.0 | 89.8 |
| Seagull Academy | 0.0 | * | 0.0 | * | 0.0 |
| South Tech Academy | 86.7 | 88.0 | 89.6 | 92.8 | 94.8 |
| Tomorrows Promise | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | * |
| Toussaint L'Ouverture High | 2.5 | 3.9 | 0.0 | 1.9 | 5.7 |
| Worthington High | * | * | 4.0 | 5.1 | 3.2 |

* indicates no data reported or less than 10 students in cohort

Table 8. FY2011-2015 Federal Graduation Rates for SDPBC Alternative High Schools

| | FY2011 | FY2012 | FY2013 | FY2014 | FY2015 |
|--------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Alternative Program Central | * | 0.0 | * | * | * |
| Alternative Program North | 16.7 | * | 14.3 | NA | * |
| Amikids Palm Beach | * | * | * | * | NA |
| Crossroads Academy | 12.2 | 21.4 | 14.5 | 18.8 | 16.5 |
| Drop Back In Academy of PBC | 2.1 | 1.4 | 0.0 | NA | NA |
| PB Virtual Franchise | 84.2 | 96.2 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100 |
| Gold Coast Community | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | * | * |
| Indian Ridge | * | 20.0 | 26.7 | 20.0 | NA |
| Intensive Transition South | 7.1 | 25.0 | 10.0 | 14.3 | 15.0 |
| Pace Center For Girls | * | * | * | * | NA |
| Palm Beach County Jail | 0.0 | 1.3 | 0.0 | 4.2 | 0.0 |
| Palm Beach Juvenile Correction | * | 5.9 | 0.0 | * | NA |
| PB Reg Juv Detention Center | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | * | NA |
| Riviera Beach Prep | 7.8 | 13.0 | 26.1 | 19.4 | 22.4 |
| Royal Palm (ESE) | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 11.1 | NA |
| Turning Points Academy | 8.0 | 4.8 | 6.7 | 0.0 | 18.2 |

* indicates no data reported or less than 10 students in cohort. NA = Not available.

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 FY2012, 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 (Students Removed from the Denominator) | Graduates (On-Time Graduates from the Denominator) | Non-Graduates (All Non-Graduates Remaining in the Denominator) |
| NGA Rate (Used for school years 2009-10 and 2010-11) | Transfers to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Other public high schools (including DJJs) or private high schools - Home-education programs - Adult-education programs* - Deceased students *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"> - Standard diploma recipients - Special diploma recipients | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dropouts - Certificate recipients - HS Exit Option GED* diploma recipients - Continuing enrollees who are not on-time graduates * Adult-Ed GED diploma recipients are classified as adult-education transfers and removed from the cohort (they are not non-grads here). |
| Federal Uniform Rate (Used for school years 2011-12 and beyond) | Transfers to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Other public or private high schools (not including DJJs) - Home-education programs - Deceased students | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Standard diploma recipients | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dropouts - Certificate recipients - GED diploma recipients - Special diploma recipients - Continuing enrollees who are not on-time graduates, - Transfers to adult education programs or DJJ centers who are not standard diploma recipients |