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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

April 7, 2022

TO: School Board Members

THROUGH: Michael J. Burke, Superintendent

MJB

FROM: Edward C. Tierney, Deputy Superintendent/Chief of Schools *ECT*
Glenda Sheffield, Ed.D., Chief Academic Officer *G.S.*
Adam Miller, Assistant Superintendent, Performance Accountability *(m)*

SUBJECT: FY21 DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES COLLEGE MATRICULATION SUMMARY

The District has received the FY21 high school graduates' college matriculation data from the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC).¹ Department of Research & Evaluation (DRE) has performed a preliminary analysis of college enrollment for students who graduated from the District between FY17 and FY21², persistence rates³ for students who graduated from the District between FY16 and FY20, and degree completion for students who graduated between FY14 and FY17. This report summarizes our progress toward the District Strategic Plan's Long Term Outcome of "Preparing Students for Postsecondary Success."

The document provides an analysis of college enrollment, including the District graduates' college enrollment by year, institution type, and student demographics. To gain an understanding of middle and high school student achievement impact on the college enrollment, the relationships with Grade 8 Florida Standards Assessment (FSA) achievement and high school SAT scores are also examined. The report also details enrollment at the most popular postsecondary institutions for the District high school graduates, college persistence, and degree completion rates.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Findings are summarized according to the following sections:

- General Enrollment Trends FY17 through FY21
- Enrollment by Student Demographics
- College Choice
- Student Achievement and College Enrollment
- Persistence: FY16 to FY20 Cohorts
- Degree Completion
- Summaries by High School Attended

¹ Data summarized as reported by the NSC and may differ from the graduate counts from the Florida Department of Education.

² Graduates defined as end-of-year Grade 12 students who earned a standard diploma (which does not include special diplomas or GEDs).

³ Persistence rate is the percentage of students who return to college at any institution for their second year.

General Enrollment Trends FY17 Through FY21

- Fifty-seven percent of District graduates enrolled in a postsecondary institution in the fall after graduation, which is similar to FY20 (56%) (Table 1).⁴ Both FY20 and FY21 college enrollment decreased from FY17 to FY19 (64% - 68%). This decrease shows the impact of COVID-19 on FY20 and FY21 high school graduates and their postsecondary institution enrollment.
- From FY18 to FY20, the percent of District graduates attending a postsecondary institution (56% - 64%) was lower than the enrollment rates of national high school graduates (63% - 69%; Table 1).⁵ For FY17, the percent of District graduates' college enrollment rate (68%) is similar to the national high school graduates (67%).

Table 1. Number and percent of District graduates enrolled in postsecondary institutions in the fall after graduation

Year	Number of District Graduates	Number of Graduates Enrolled in College	Percent of Graduates Enrolled in College	National High School ⁶
FY21	13,126	7,419	57%	-
FY20	13,469	7,500	56%	63%
FY19	13,302	8,470	64%	66%
FY18	12,811	8,251	64%	69%
FY17	11,173	7,549	68%	67%

Note: The college enrollment may be impacted by NSC Institution coverage rate for the year or students' enrollment record blocked rate.

- In FY19 and earlier, nearly two-thirds of students enrolled in a postsecondary institution during the fall following high school graduation. However, in FY20 and FY21 only 56% - 57% of graduates enrolled in a postsecondary institution. This decrease among District graduates reflects the nationwide trend.⁷ For FY20, similar to the prior years' graduates (FY17 to FY19), the enrollment rates increased slightly (5 to 7 percentage points) by the end of the first year following high school graduation with small additional increases in the second and third years (Table 2).

⁴ The overall enrollment changes may be impacted by colleges and universities that have withdrawn from the NSC or some students' enrollment and/or degree records are blocked at the student's request.

⁵ Reported by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics: <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/hsgsec.nr0.htm>.

⁶ "National School" refers to national high school graduates between age 16 to 24 as reported by the U.S. Department of Labor: <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/hsgsec.nr0.htm>. Benchmark from the published results from NSC Center <https://nscresearchcenter.org/high-school-benchmarks/>.

⁷ "In October 2020, 62.7 percent of 2020 high school graduates ages 16 to 24 were enrolled in colleges or universities, down from 66.2 percent in the prior year", the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported. <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/hsgsec.nr0.htm>

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Table 2. Percent of District graduates enrolled in postsecondary institutions for the first time in the fall and in the following four years^{8,9}

Year	Percent Enrolled in Fall	Percent Enrolled in the First Year	Percent Enrolled in the Second Year	Percent Enrolled in the Third Year	Percent Enrolled in the Fourth Year	Total Percent
FY21	57%	57%	NA	NA	NA	57%
FY20	56%	62%	3%	NA	NA	65%
FY19	64%	69%	3%	1%	NA	73%
FY18	64%	70%	4%	2%	0%	76%
FY17	68%	72%	4%	2%	1%	79%

Note: NA indicates no data available. Total percent may appear to be different due to rounding.

- For each of the cohorts examined, most college attendees enrolled in a public university (Table 3), in-state (Table 4), a four-year college or university (Table 5). Similar to the FY20 graduates, FY21 graduates' enrollment decreased at public colleges, in-state institutions and four-year colleges.

Table 3. Number and percent of District graduates enrolled in public and private institutions in the fall after graduation

Year	Number of District Graduates	Number Enrolled in a Public College	Percent Enrolled in a Public College	Number Enrolled in a Private College	Percent Enrolled in a Private College
FY21	13,126	6,580	50%	849	6%
FY20	13,469	6,604	49%	922	7%
FY19	13,302	7,571	57%	910	7%
FY18	12,811	7,355	57%	901	7%
FY17	11,173	6,758	60%	801	7%

Table 4. Number and percent of District graduates enrolled in an in-state and out-of-state postsecondary institution in the fall after graduation

Year	Number of District Graduates	Number Enrolled in an In-State College	Percent Enrolled in an In-State College	Number Enrolled in an Out-of-State College	Percent Enrolled in an Out-of-State College
FY21	13,126	6,608	50%	814	6%
FY20	13,469	6,719	50%	806	6%
FY19	13,302	7,646	57%	836	6%
FY18	12,811	7,412	58%	842	7%
FY17	11,173	6,726	60%	827	7%

⁸ Graduates are defined as Grade 12 students who earned a standard diploma (which does not include special diplomas or GEDs). College enrollment does not include students who joined the military after graduation.

⁹ Fall is defined as anytime during the calendar year of graduation (e.g., May to December); the first year is the graduated year's May to next year July; the second year is August to next July, etc.

Table 5. Number and percent of District graduates enrolled in two and four-year postsecondary institutions in the fall after graduation¹⁰

Year	Number of District Graduates	Number Enrolled in a Two-Year College	Percent Enrolled in a Two-Year College	Number Enrolled in a Four-Year College	Percent Enrolled in a Four-Year College
FY21	13,126	248	2%	7,177	55%
FY20	13,469	244	2%	7,263	54%
FY19	13,302	287	2%	8,191	62%
FY18	12,811	285	2%	7,971	62%
FY17	11,173	220	2%	7,332	66%

Enrollment by Student Demographics

- More Female graduates (63% - 72%) were enrolled in a postsecondary institution than Male graduates (49% - 63%; Table 6); Male college enrollment (-8% for FY21, -9% for FY20) decreased more than Female (-6% for FY21 and FY20) from FY21 - FY20 to FY19.
- Fewer Black (46% - 63%) and Hispanic (48% - 61%) graduates were enrolled in a postsecondary institution than White graduates (69% - 74%) (Table 6). The decrease in enrollment from FY19 to FY21 for Black (-10%) was similar to Hispanic students (-10%), but larger than White students (-3%). Correspondingly, the gap between White and Black students in FY21 (20%) was larger than in FY19 (13%), but was smaller than FY20 (21%). The gap between White and Hispanic students in FY21 (21%) was the same as in FY20, but larger than in FY19 (14%).

Table 6. Number and percent of District graduates enrolled in postsecondary institutions in the fall after graduation by demographic groups

Group	FY21		FY20		FY19		FY18		FY17	
	Count	Pct	Count	Pct	Count	Pct	Count	Pct	Count	Pct
ALL	13,126	57%	13,469	56%	13,302	64%	12,811	64%	11,173	68%
FRL	8,203	48%	7,625	45%	7,347	56%	6,722	57%	5,670	60%
ESE	1,642	34%	1,562	35%	1,588	43%	1,484	46%	755	61%
ELL	1,307	33%	1,515	28%	1,321	46%	1,271	45%	914	50%
Female	6,663	63%	6,880	63%	6,785	69%	6,485	70%	5,683	72%
Male	6,463	50%	6,589	49%	6,517	58%	6,326	59%	5,490	63%
Black	3,528	49%	3,697	46%	3,655	59%	3,571	61%	2,885	63%
Hispanic	4,310	48%	4,338	48%	4,087	58%	3,805	58%	3,149	61%
White	4,308	69%	4,529	69%	4,712	72%	4,604	72%	4,381	74%

College Choice

For all years, Palm Beach State College (PBSC) has been the most common college choice for District graduates (Table 7). PBSC remained the top choice for the FY21 graduates although there was a decrease of 8 percentage points from FY19.

¹⁰ The NSC has classified Palm Beach State College (formerly Palm Beach Community College) as a four-year institution for all years in this analysis.

Table 7. Number and percent of District graduates enrolled in the five most frequently attended colleges/universities in the fall after graduation

Institution	FY21		FY20		FY19		FY18		FY17	
	Count	Pct	Count	Pct	Count	Pct	Count	Pct	Count	Pct
Palm Beach State College	2,712	21%	2,882	21%	3,833	29%	3,797	30%	3,448	31%
Florida Atlantic University	878	7%	910	7%	751	6%	668	5%	562	5%
University of Florida	542	4%	538	4%	576	4%	569	4%	509	5%
Florida State University	509	4%	342	3%	480	4%	448	3%	486	4%
University of Central Florida	498	4%	642	5%	499	4%	484	4%	467	5%

Student Achievement and College Enrollment

- For FY21 the enrollment rates increased for students with lower SAT scores compared to FY20, but still decreased from FY19 and prior years. Among the FY21 graduates with SAT Reading or Math scores above 600, postsecondary enrollment (84% - 87%) was stable across years (Table 8 and Table 9). However, there were still declines among lower achieving students. For students scoring in the 500-599 range, enrollment rates decreased about 5 percentage points (FY19's 73% to FY21's 69% for Reading; FY19's 76% to FY21's 73% for Math), while enrollment rates for graduates with Reading scores below 500 declined more than 10 percentage points (from FY19's 34% - 52% to FY21's 22% - 44%).

Table 8. Number and percent of District graduates enrolled in postsecondary institutions in the fall after graduation by SAT Reading score

Score Range	FY21*		FY20*		FY19*		FY18*		FY17*	
	Count	Pct	Count	Pct	Count	Pct	Count	Pct	Count	Pct
1-399	1,032	22%	854	18%	619	34%	617	38%	460	50%
400-499	4,638	44%	4,726	40%	4,651	52%	4,574	54%	3,903	56%
500-599	3,681	69%	3,955	68%	4,182	73%	3,938	72%	3,500	74%
600-800	2,799	85%	3,024	84%	2,953	85%	2,882	85%	2,434	84%

* Note: The SAT score is the New SAT score; the summary based on the students who took SAT in high school.

Table 9. Number and percent of District graduates enrolled in postsecondary institutions in the fall after graduation by SAT Math score

Score Range	FY21*		FY20*		FY19*		FY18*		FY17*	
	Count	Pct	Count	Pct	Count	Pct	Count	Pct	Count	Pct
1-399	2,522	32%	2,501	29%	2,108	41%	1,870	44%	1,394	49%
400-499	4,139	50%	4,147	48%	4,382	59%	4,126	57%	3,535	59%
500-599	3,484	73%	3,737	72%	3,692	76%	3,897	76%	3,548	77%
600-800	2,004	87%	2,174	86%	2,223	87%	2,116	86%	1,821	84%

* Note: The SAT score is the New SAT score; the summary is based on the students who took SAT in High School.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: FY21 DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES COLLEGE MATRICULATION SUMMARY

- For those District graduates who had a Florida Standards Assessment English Language Arts (ELA)¹¹ Level 4 or 5 in Grade 8, 73% - 84% entered college. Graduates who had scored at ELA Level 1 in Grade 8, 29% - 49% enrolled in a postsecondary institution. Moreover, graduates who had ELA Level 2 in Grade 8, 47% - 59% enrolled in a postsecondary institution (Table 10). For FY21 graduates who had ELA Reading Level 1 and 2 in Grade 8, the college enrollment increased about 2% from FY20, but still declined more than 10% from FY19.
- District graduates who had a Florida Standards Assessment Math Level 4 or 5 in Grade 8, 67% - 83% entered college. Graduates who had Math Level 1 in Grade 8, 30% - 52% enrolled in a postsecondary institution. Moreover, graduates who had Math Level 2 in Grade 8, 43% - 58% enrolled in a postsecondary institution (Table 11).
- In alignment with the SAT data, FY21 graduates with lower Grade 8 scores showed a little increase in college enrollment from FY20, but still greater decrease relative to the FY19 and earlier graduates. The proportion of Level 1 and 2 students entering a postsecondary institution has increased about 1 - 2% from FY20, but declined much more than other Levels comparing to FY19 and earlier graduates.

Table 10. Number and percent of District graduates enrolled in postsecondary institutions in the fall after graduation by Grade 8 state assessment ELA Level

Score Range	FY21*		FY20*		FY19*		FY18		FY17	
	Count	Pct	Count	Pct	Count	Pct	Count	Pct	Count	Pct
Level 1	1,790	31%	1,697	29%	1,681	44%	1,264	44%	591	49%
Level 2	2,230	49%	2,105	47%	2,246	59%	2,474	57%	2,241	58%
Level 3	2,578	62%	2,657	62%	2,787	69%	2,755	68%	2,702	69%
Level 4	2,108	73%	2,170	76%	2,050	79%	2,124	78%	2,115	79%
Level 5	1,569	82%	1,606	82%	1,341	83%	1,472	84%	1,314	82%

* Note: For FY19, FY20, FY21 the score are the FSA scores, while the other scores are the FCAT 2.0 Score.

Table 11. Number and percent of District graduates enrolled in postsecondary institutions in the fall after graduation by Grade 8 state assessment Math Level

Score Range	FY21*		FY20*		FY19*		FY18		FY17	
	Count	Pct	Count	Pct	Count	Pct	Count	Pct	Count	Pct
Level 1	1,574	32%	1,464	30%	1,401	48%	710	45%	871	52%
Level 2	1,492	44%	1,533	43%	1,665	56%	1,940	58%	1,598	58%
Level 3	2,614	58%	2,684	59%	2,928	65%	2,757	67%	3,076	68%
Level 4	2,093	67%	2,033	70%	2,151	75%	1,181	76%	1,991	77%
Level 5	2,622	80%	2,622	79%	2,066	82%	624	81%	1,170	83%

* Note: For FY19, FY20, FY21 the score are the FSA Math scores, while the other scores are the FCAT 2.0 Score. Since FY19, Grade 8 FSA Math was not required; the students might take Algebra EOC or Geometry EOC. The summary is based the highest levels the students received.

¹¹ Prior to FY15, the state assessment was the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test 2.0 (FCAT).

Persistence: FY16 to FY20 Cohorts

- From FY16 to FY18, the persistence rate¹² for District graduates enrolled in college (82% - 83%) was higher than the National persistence rate (74% - 76%) (Table 12). The FY19 District persistence rate has decreased to 77%, which is higher than the overall national persistence rate (74%) but lower than National 20 (age) and under persistence rate (79%). For FY20, District persistence rate increase to 81% which is close to FY18.

Table 12. First-Year persistence rate for the District high school graduates enrolled in postsecondary institutions

Cohort Year	District Enrolled Count	District Persistence Rate	National Persistence Rate	National 20 (age) and under* Persistence Rate
FY20	7,734	81%	NA	NA
FY19	8,617	77%	74%	79%
FY18	8,455	82%	76%	80%
FY17	8,078	84%	74%	77%
FY16	7,361	83%	74%	77%

* National Persistence Rate is from NSC <https://nscresearchcenter.org/persistence-retention/>

Degree Completion

- Over 60% of students in the FY14 to FY15 cohorts have completed a certificate, BA or AA college degree, and 60% of the FY16 cohort have done so as well. The total for those FY14 and FY15 graduates who completed a certificate, BA or AA degree in six years was equal or slightly higher (64% for FY14, 62% for FY15, (Table 13) than the National completion rate (61% for FY14, 62% for FY15).
- The Bachelor’s degree was the most common highest degree completed (44% - 45% for FY14 to FY15 cohorts). While 41% of FY16 cohort students have completed a Bachelor’s degree, this percentage is expected to increase with time.
- For FY16 cohort, by then end of year 2021, about 58% have completed AA or BA degree.

Table 13. Count FY14 to FY17 for the District high school graduates enrolled in postsecondary institutions and degree completion rate

Cohort Year	Count	Percent for BA or AA Degree or Other	Percent for Highest Degree with Other	Percent for Highest Degree with AA	Percent for Highest Degree with BA	Percent for Highest Degree with MA and Above	National Degree Completion Rate for BA or AA or Certificate
FY17	8174	51%	2%	19%	30%	1%	NA
FY16	7,481	60%	2%	17%	41%	2%	NA
FY15	7,504	62%	2%	16%	44%	4%	62%
FY14	7,395	64%	2%	17%	45%	4%	61%

Note: NA denotes “not available”. With any of the Degrees,

- Other - Received Certificate or other Diploma as the Highest Degree
- AA - Received Associate’s Degree as the Highest Degree
- BA - Received Bachelor’s Degree as the Highest Degree
- MA and Above - Received Master’s Degree and above as the Highest Degree
- FY14 and FY15 are six-year degree completion; other are the completion by the end of 2021

¹² Persistence rate is the percentage of students who return to college at any institution for their second year.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: FY21 DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES COLLEGE MATRICULATION SUMMARY

In summary, similar to FY20, the District FY21 graduates enrolled in a postsecondary institution in the fall after graduation is considerably lower than FY19 and prior years. The decrease in enrollment differed across student groups and academic achievement. The enrollment gap between White and Black students in FY21 was larger than in FY19, but smaller than FY20. The enrollment gap between White and Hispanic students in FY21 was larger than in FY19 and similar to FY20. Students who scored lower on the SAT or Grade 8 FSA/FCAT showed larger declines in postsecondary enrollment compared to higher achieving students.

FY19 persistence rate is lower than FY18, but increased in FY20. From FY15 to FY19, the persistence rate for District graduates enrolled in college was higher than the National persistence rate.

FY14 graduates who completed a degree in six years was slightly higher than the National completion rate. The impact of COVID-19 on future persistence rates is yet to be determined.

NEXT STEPS

Overall, for FY21 District graduates, the postsecondary enrollment dropped about 7 percentage points from FY19 (64% for FY19, 57% for FY21) concurrent with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. This impact was also reflected for each high school. In addition, as noted above, there are differences in enrollment and persistence rates related to the high school that students attended.

The District High School Graduates' College Matriculation Dashboard provides summaries of college enrollment, persistence rates and degree completion by District high schools.¹³ Comparison to the District schools and National Benchmarks are also included. With this in mind and the information provided in the summary and dashboard, staff are urged to reflect on the following questions:

1. How does college enrollment compare to the prior year? The last five years? What trends do you see? How do they compare to the National Benchmarks?
2. How does college persistent rate compare to the prior year? The last five years? What trends do you see? How do they compare to the National Benchmarks?
3. How does college completion rate compare to the District overall and National Benchmarks?
4. Do high school graduates meeting college readiness benchmarks enroll in college?
5. What are we doing to monitor students beginning in Grade 9 and tracking them to college enrollment?
6. How can we better support students who are impacted by COVID-19 and help them to prepare for enrollment, persistence, and success in a postsecondary environment?

MJB/ECT/GS/AM/PH/RC/JH:wI

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

¹³ Navigation to the dashboard from the District Webpage: The School District of Palm Beach County -> About Us -> Reports and Publications -> Tests/Survey Reports -> Reports/Graphs