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Signatures on File

June 23, 2021

TO: School Board Members

FROM: Daniel F. Gohl
Chief Academic Officer

VIA: Robert W. Runcie
Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: **2020-21 FLORIDA STANDARDS ASSESSMENT (FSA) ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (ELA)
THIRD GRADE RESULTS**

Monday, June 14, 2021, the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) released the 2020-21 Florida Standards Assessment English Language Arts (FSA-ELA) student level result files for third grade students. Tuesday, June 22, 2021 the FDOE released summary school level, district level, and statewide summary results. **The results show that 53 percent of third grade Broward County Public School students met or exceeded grade level satisfactory performance (Achievement Level 3 or Above) in ELA, down seven points from 60 percent in 2018-19.** Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the state canceled FSA testing in 2019-20; therefore, 2018-19 results are the most recent prior year of available results. Overall, the State of Florida saw a decrease of four percentage points from 58 percent in 2018-19 to 54 percent in 2020-21.

Participation:

Given that many students were attending school remotely due to the COVID-19 pandemic and some parents were reluctant to send their children in person to test, participation in the Grade 3 FSA-ELA test was challenging for the 2020-21 school year. On April 5, 2021, the first day of the grade 3 FSA-ELA testing window, 54% (n=10,265) of grade 3 students were learning at school and 46% (n=8,811) were learning remotely at home. To calculate a participation rate, FSA test results were matched with enrollment data. There were 19,076 grade 3 students who were enrolled in BCPS during the first day of the FSA-ELA Grade 3 test administration window and 17,396 of these students were matched to FSA test results. Therefore, Districtwide, 91% of third graders tested in 2020-21. Sixty-eight percent (96 out of 141) of Broward's traditional elementary schools tested 90% or more of their third-grade students on the Grade 3 FSA- ELA. Twenty-nine percent (41 out of 141) of Broward's traditional elementary schools tested 95% or more of their third-grade students on the Grade 3 FSA-ELA. One school, Indian Trace Elementary School, tested 100% of their third-grade students on the Grade 3 FSA-ELA.

Results:

Table 1 provides 2014-15 through 2018-19 and 2020-21 student performance (percent Achievement Level 3 or Above) results on the FSA-ELA for third grade students in Broward County Public Schools (BCPS). The table also shows student performance at the five largest school districts in the state (Broward, Hillsborough, Miami-Dade, Orange, and Palm Beach) and the corresponding statewide results. Among the five largest school districts in the state, Broward saw the sharpest decrease of third

grade students scoring at an Achievement Level of 3 or higher (7 percentage points). However, Broward's performance increased one percentage point compared to 2014-15 when the test was first administered.

Table 1.

Third Grade Student Performance (Percent Achievement Level 3 or Above) on FSA-ELA in Florida's Five Largest Districts and Statewide, 2014-15 through 2018-19 and 2020-21.

	Percent Achievement Level 3 to 5						Difference 2019 to 2021	Difference 2015 to 2021
	2014- 15	2015- 16	2016- 17	2017- 18	2018- 19	2020- 21		
Broward	52	55	57	59	60	53	-7	+1
Hillsborough	50	52	56	53	52	51	-1	+1
Miami-Dade	53	54	58	61	60	57	-3	+4
Orange	55	54	57	55	55	55	0	0
Palm Beach	51	52	54	56	54	54	0	+3
Florida	53	54	58	57	58	54	-4	+1

Beginning with the 2016-19 Strategic Plan, BCPS launched the early literacy initiative with the goal of reducing the percent of students who score at Achievement Level 1 on the grade 3 FSA-ELA. Table 2 shows 2014-15 through 2018-19 and 2020-21 student performance (percent Achievement Level 1) results on the FSA-ELA for third grade students in Broward, Hillsborough, Miami-Dade, Orange, and Palm Beach and the corresponding statewide results. Broward results show a consistent positive trend of reducing the percentage of students scoring Achievement Level 1 from 2014-15 through 2018-19. Unfortunately, the 2020-21 results show Broward increased the percent of students who scored at Achievement Level 1 by five percentage points to 23 percent in 2020-21.

Table 2.

Third Grade Student Performance (Percent Achievement Level 1) on FSA-ELA in 2014-15 through 2018-19 and 2020-21.

	Percent Achievement Level 1						Difference 2019 to 2021	Difference 2015 to 2021
	2014- 15	2015- 16	2016- 17	2017- 18	2018- 19	2020- 21		
Broward	24	23	20	19	18	23	+5	-1
Hillsborough	23	23	20	23	25	27	+2	-4
Miami-Dade	24	24	20	19	19	22	+3	-2
Orange	20	23	21	24	23	25	+2	-5
Palm Beach	24	25	22	22	22	25	+3	-1
Florida	22	22	19	20	20	23	+3	+1

Table 3a shows grade 3 student performance alongside the learning environment enrollment breakdown between in-person and innovative (students learning remotely from home) status for the five largest school districts in the state (Broward, Hillsborough, Miami-Dade, Orange, and Palm Beach). Broward had the highest percentage (46%) of grade 3 students who attended school remotely from

home out of all 67 county-based school districts in Florida. This table shows districts with the highest percentage of students learning from home also had the largest decrease in grade 3 performance. Additionally, Broward was the final district in the state to reopen for in-person brick and mortar instruction.

Table 3a.

Third Grade Student Performance on FSA-ELA and Percent of Students Enrolled by Learning Location, 2020-21.

	Percentage Achievement Level 3 or Above		2021 Percentage Point Change	Percent of Students by 2021 Learning Environment Enrollment ¹		
	2019	2021		In-Person	Innovative (Home)	Traditional Virtual
Broward	60	53	-7	53%	46%	0%
Hillsborough	52	51	-1	63%	36%	2%
Miami-Dade	60	57	-3	58%	42%	0%
Orange	55	55	0	74%	24%	1%
Palm Beach	54	54	0	69%	30%	0%

¹ Reported by districts in Survey 3 (February 2021)

Table 3b shows grade 3 FSA-ELA performance of BCPS students who attended school remotely from home and students who learned in-person at a school site. It is important to note, all state exams were administered in person on a school campus. These results show students who attended school remotely from home scored higher than their in-person counterparts. However, several factors could have contributed to differences between these student populations. For example, at the conclusion of the first semester, students who were not making adequate academic progress were encouraged to attend school in person starting in the second semester of the 2020-21 school year. Therefore, the populations of in-person and home learners should not be directly compared.

Table 3b.

Third Grade Student Performance on FSA-ELA in Broward County's Public Schools by Learning Location, 2020-21.

	Percent Achievement Level 3 or Above	Percent Achievement Level 1
Innovative (Home)	56	20
In-Person	52	25

Table 4 shows the results of grade 3 FSA-ELA broken down by demographic groups. These results show female students scored higher than their male counterparts. Asian and White students scored higher than other race and ethnic groups. Students who received free-and/or-reduced lunch, students with disabilities, and English language learners scored lower than their counterparts. Comparing to 2018-19 performance to 2020-21, English language learners exhibited the largest decrease (12 percentage points) of third grade students scoring at an Achievement Level of 3 or higher.

Table 4.

Third Grade Student Performance on FSA-ELA in Broward County's Public Schools by Demographic Groups, 2020-21.

Group	Percent Achievement Level 3 or Above			Percent Achievement Level 1		
	2018-19*	2020-21**	Difference	2018-19*	2020-21**	Difference
Gender						
Female	63	58	-5	16	20	4
Male	57	50	-7	21	26	5
Race/Ethnicity						
American Indian	38	65	27	26	15	-11
Asian	83	73	-10	6	11	5
Black	46	40	-6	26	32	6
Hispanic	63	57	-6	17	21	4
Multi-Racial	68	64	-4	14	16	2
Pacific Islander	70	67	-3	10	15	5
White	76	71	-5	9	11	2
Free/Reduced Priced Lunch Status (FRL)						
FRL	51	43	-8	24	29	5
Non-FRL	76	68	-8	10	14	4
Students With Disabilities (SWD)						
SWD	34	27	-7	39	47	8
Non-SWD	64	58	-6	15	19	4
English Language Learners (ELL)						
ELL	34	22	-12	36	50	14
Non-ELL	65	60	-5	15	18	3

*2018-19 demographic data retrieved from the FDOE Edstats dashboard.

<https://edstats.fldoe.org/SASPortal/public>

**2020-21 demographic data retrieved from Survey 3 file.

School Level Progress:

Nineteen percent (27 out of 141) of Broward's traditional elementary schools showed increases in the percent of third grade students scoring at or above grade level satisfactory performance (Achievement Level 3 or Above) on the FSA-ELA. Five schools had an increase of 10 percentage points or greater.

They are:

Thurgood Marshall Elementary School (25 points), **Deerfield Beach Elementary School** (15 points), **Silver Palms Elementary School** (12 points), **Sandpiper Elementary School** (11 points), and **Mirror Lake Elementary School** (10 points).

Thurgood Marshall Elementary was identified in 2018-19 as in the Lowest 300 group of elementary schools in the state, which is determined based on English Language Arts achievement and learning gains points in the school grade model.

School level performance for all Broward schools can be found in the appendix which includes 2020-21 along with prior year's performance from school years 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18, and 2018-19.

Promotion to Grade 4:

Student performance on the Grade 3 FSA-ELA test is used as a criterion for promotion to the fourth grade. According to Florida Statute 1008.25 (5) (b), third grade students are eligible for promotion by either scoring at Achievement Level 2 or above on the FSA-ELA subtest or by demonstrating an exemption from this criterion through Good Cause. The grade 3 FSA-ELA data indicate that 77 percent of Broward's students have met the ELA requirement on the FSA by scoring at Achievement Level 2 or above on the FSA-ELA subtest. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic the FDOE issued DOE Emergency Order 02 (<http://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/19861/urlt/2021-EO-02.pdf>) which provided schools additional flexibility to promote students. Students who did not meet the FSA criterion have additional opportunities to demonstrate readiness for promotion via Good Cause Criteria. Alternate assessments used to demonstrate readiness for promotion include the Portfolio Reading Assessment conducted throughout the school year and performance on other state-approved alternate assessments. Typically, the percent of students retained in third grade is between 6 and 7 percent (6.7 percent in 2016-17, 7.0 percent in 2017-18, 6.1 in 2018-19, and 1.2 percent in 2019-20). Fewer students were retained in 2019-20 because statewide testing was suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Parents are be able to access their child's scores on Broward Schools Virtual Counselor. This memorandum and a school-by-school report can be accessed on the Student Assessment and Research website at <https://www.browardschools.com/sar>. FSA results are also posted on the FDOE website at <http://www.fldoe.org/accountability/assessments/k-12-student-assessment/results/2021.stml>.

Questions regarding this release should be directed to Richard Baum, Director, Student Assessment and Research at (754) 321-2500.

RWR/DG/RGB:rs

Attachment

cc: Senior Leadership Team
Veda Hudge, Director, Office of Service Quality
Directors, School Performance & Accountability
Elementary Principals and Charter School Principals