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ABSTRACT

In Florida, community colleges are required to report their entry-level basic skills testing results to the public school system in their service area. Miami-Dade Community College (M-DCC) has been reporting that approximately 60% of Dade County Public School (DCPS) graduates cannot pass basic skills tests in math, writing, and reading. DCPS has replied, however, that M-DCC mainly enrolls students who never planned to attend college and therefore did not follow the college track in high school. They felt their college-prepared students were attending universities and therefore not part of M-DCC's sample. Recently, however, university and community college data have been combined for each district. Results show that 46% of Dade County graduates scored above the cut in all areas compared to 63% of graduates statewide. Students had the most difficulty passing the mathematics test and found the reading and writing tests about equally difficult. Of students taking entry-level placement tests at M-DCC, 36% were ready for college in all areas, 10 percentage points below that for the school system as a whole. Statewide, less than half of the Black and Hispanic high school graduates passed the three basic skills tests compared to 70% of White non-Hispanic and Asian graduates. The largest statewide difference for males and females was a four percentage point spread in math, with males passing at a higher rate. (AC)

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TOPIC: BASIC SKILLS

MIAMI-DADE COMMUNITY COLLEGE-INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH

INFORMATION CAPSULE

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A Statewide Look at Basic Skills Tests Results for 1990-91
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INFORMATION CAPSULE

Preparedness of High School Graduates for College:
A Statewide Look at Basic Skills Tests Results for 1990-91
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January 1993

Are Florida's public high school graduates prepared for college? Legislation has mandated that this question be answered by having community colleges report their entry-level basic skills testing results to the public school system in their service area. M-DCC has been reporting that a majority (about 60%) of Dade County Public School (DCPS) graduates cannot pass the tests in all three areas. DCPS has replied, however, that M-DCC mainly enrolls students who never planned to attend college and therefore did not follow the "college track" in high school. Their best students--and therefore their college-prepared students--are at the universities and not part of our data. Until this year, no further data were available, and the discussion ended.

Now, however, the situation has changed. Data from each community college and university has been sent to the State. The State combined the data into results for each school district and college. Thus, for the first time the percentage of recent public school graduates who passed the basic skills tests is available, regardless of where in the state system the enrollment took place during the academic year.

Results showed that 46% of Dade County graduates scored above the cut in all areas compared to 63% of graduates statewide. Students consistently had the most difficulty passing the mathematics test and found the reading and writing tests about equally difficult. Table 1 contains full results by county. While results for Dade and Broward counties are essentially complete, other county comparisons should be made with caution since some data are incomplete.

Miami-Dade Community College had 36% ready for college in all areas (see Table 2). This figure was only 10 percentage points below that for the school system as a whole. Note also that of the 7,406 Dade graduates in higher education, 5,773 or 78% attended Miami-Dade (see Table 3). Thus, the Dade County figures are heavily influenced by the large number of students who enroll at M-DCC. By comparison, only 476 students enrolled at FIU.

One of the most striking results was the difference in the percentage ready for college within each ethnic group. Clearly, large numbers of Black and Hispanic youths are graduating from high school and enrolling in

THIS INFORMATION CAPSULE IS A BRIEF, COMPLETE REPORT

college without the skills needed to immediately begin college-level work. Statewide, less than half of these two groups passed the basic skills tests in all areas compared to a passing rate of over 70% for White non-Hispanics and Asians (see Table 4). Dade County figures were lower (see Table 5). Many of the minority graduates who enrolled in higher education came from DCPS--34% of Blacks and 73% of Hispanics.

There were fewer gender differences. The largest statewide difference was a four percentage point spread in mathematics. In Dade County, the largest was a five point difference in reading. In both instances, males had the higher passing rates.

This report is the first to provide an annual look at how well the State's public school graduates are performing on entering basic skills tests. Especially after the single placement test is implemented in 1994, this report will provide key data for accountability and improvement efforts. Results clearly show that school systems and community colleges need to work closely together since that is where most graduates enroll, and that the preparation of minority students needs further attention.

Marcia J. Belcher:ab

Table 1

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION COORDINATION
READINESS FOR COLLEGE BASED ON ENTRY-LEVEL PLACEMENT TESTS 1990-91
STATE SUMMARY
by Public School District

District from which Students Graduated in 1990	Number of FTEC Students in Public Comm. Colleges or Univ.	Number Who Took Entry-Level Test	Number and Percent Ready in													
			M A T H	R E A D Y	% R E A D Y	W R I T I N G	% R E A D Y	R E A D Y	% R E A D Y	A L L	% R E A D Y					
Alachua	582	570	437	77	452	79	446	78	362	64						
Baker*	1	1	1	100	1	100	1	100	1	100						
Bay	359	347	265	76	273	79	280	81	215	62						
Bradford	76	75	54	72	53	71	49	65	44	59						
Brevard**	1140	540	503	93	422	78	506	94	388	72						
Broward	3517	3343	2264	68	2809	84	2788	83	2048	61						
Calhoun	38	33	19	58	18	55	19	58	10	30						
Charlotte	214	196	159	81	169	86	163	83	136	69						
Citrus	194	187	146	78	162	87	161	86	129	69						
Clay*	192	189	181	96	177	94	180	95	173	92						
Collier	330	277	206	74	222	80	222	80	175	63						
Columbia*	44	43	35	81	31	72	32	74	26	61						
Dade	7406	7151	4428	62	4972	70	4622	65	3274	46						
De Soto	46	25	20	80	23	92	22	88	19	76						
Dixie*	8	8	6	75	6	75	7	88	5	63						
Duval*	655	654	615	94	617	94	620	95	579	89						
Escambia	898	881	652	74	766	87	728	83	588	67						
Flagler**	28	25	20	80	23	92	24	96	19	76						

* Data for the community college in the service area which includes this district are not available. Students omitted from this report include those enrolled at Florida Community College at Jacksonville, Lake City Community College, Lake-Sumter Community College, St. Johns River Community College, and St. Petersburg Junior College. ** Some students enrolled in the community college in the service area which includes this school district are not included in this report due to coding errors.

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION COORDINATION
READINESS FOR COLLEGE BASED ON ENTRY-LEVEL PLACEMENT TESTS 1990-91
STATE SUMMARY
by Public School District

District from which Students Graduated in 1990	Number of FTEC Students in Public Comm. Colleges or Univ.	Number Who Took Entry-Level Test	Number and Percent Ready in													
			M A T H	R E A D Y	% R E A D Y	W R I T I N G	% R E A D Y	R E A D Y	% R E A D Y	A L L	% R E A D Y					
Franklin	16	15	10	67	11	73	11	73	8	53						
Goodalen	116	111	84	76	77	69	76	69	56	51						
Gilchrist*	28	27	22	82	22	82	23	85	18	67						
Glades	13	13	7	54	10	77	9	69	6	46						
Gulf	38	37	17	46	22	60	23	62	13	35						
Hamilton	26	21	15	71	15	71	17	81	12	57						
Hardee	54	18	15	83	13	72	13	72	12	67						
Hendry	74	72	51	71	52	72	50	69	41	57						
Hernando	150	141	89	63	115	82	117	83	78	55						
Highlands	128	46	37	80	39	85	37	80	32	70						
Hillsborough	1889	1837	1474	80	1503	82	1599	87	1206	71						
Holmes	30	29	25	86	22	76	22	76	16	55						
Indian River	251	214	202	94	179	84	196	92	166	78						
Jackson	144	135	88	65	93	69	96	71	67	50						
Jefferson	30	30	20	67	19	63	19	63	16	53						
Lafayette	16	12	8	67	10	83	8	67	7	58						
Lake*	147	139	128	92	123	89	126	91	113	81						
Lee	801	797	546	69	624	78	606	76	448	56						

NOTE: This is the first statewide edition of the readiness report. The data are incomplete for a variety of reasons. See Introduction for details.

Table 1
(Continued)

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION COORDINATION
READINESS FOR COLLEGE BASED ON ENTRY-LEVEL PLACEMENT TESTS 1990-91
STATE SUMMARY
by Public School District

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION COORDINATION
READINESS FOR COLLEGE BASED ON ENTRY-LEVEL PLACEMENT TESTS 1990-91
STATE SUMMARY
by Public School District

District from which Students Graduated in 1990	Number of FTIC Students in Public Comm Colleges or Univ.	Number Who Took Entry-Level Test	Number and Percent Ready in					ALL	% R E A D Y	% R E A D Y	% R E A D Y	% R E A D Y	% R E A D Y														
			M A T H	R E A D I N G	W R I T I N G	% R E A D Y	% R E A D Y																				
Leon	662	653	550	84	489	75	541	83	433	66	57	55	93	51	176	347	580	884	23	52	44	49	96	52	95	49	89
Levy	80	73	53	73	57	78	58	80	44	60	225	199	88	154	154	347	321	494	783	23	44	44	96	161	81	132	66
Liberty	24	23	18	78	14	61	14	61	10	44	355	347	72	321	321	304	304	487	92	78	22	96	161	81	132	66	
Madison	34	25	17	68	14	56	16	64	11	44	650	650	74	494	494	487	487	783	92	78	22	96	161	81	132	66	
Manatee	531	470	374	80	386	82	377	80	306	65	884	848	90	783	783	783	783	92	78	22	96	161	81	132	66		
Marion	475	449	306	68	354	79	358	80	253	56	23	23	74	18	18	22	22	78	92	78	22	96	161	81	132	66	
Marlin	286	252	234	93	207	82	227	90	189	75	52	44	96	36	36	41	41	78	92	78	22	96	161	81	132	66	
Manatee**	133	119	81	68	97	82	97	82	72	61	49	44	84	34	34	34	34	78	92	78	22	96	161	81	132	66	
Nassau*	24	23	20	87	19	83	20	87	18	78	17	14	86	12	12	12	12	78	92	78	22	96	161	81	132	66	
Okaloosa	688	655	542	83	567	87	586	90	475	73	273	262	82	241	241	240	240	783	92	78	22	96	161	81	132	66	
Okeechobee	97	85	79	93	74	87	73	86	65	77	47	47	77	37	37	40	40	78	92	78	22	96	161	81	132	66	
Orange	1761	1601	1392	87	1398	87	1368	85	1200	75	82	75	68	65	65	66	66	78	92	78	22	96	161	81	132	66	
Osceola	272	247	203	82	205	83	207	84	168	68	57	57	74	45	45	42	42	78	92	78	22	96	161	81	132	66	
Palm Beach	1942	1872	1482	79	1515	81	1537	82	1278	68	79	78	85	60	60	69	69	78	92	78	22	96	161	81	132	66	
Pasco	373	364	270	74	282	78	296	81	230	63	49	44	86	12	12	12	12	78	92	78	22	96	161	81	132	66	
Pinellas*	651	646	614	95	603	93	614	95	579	90	82	75	68	65	65	66	66	78	92	78	22	96	161	81	132	66	
Polk	906	894	563	63	603	67	703	79	444	50	57	57	74	45	45	42	42	78	92	78	22	96	161	81	132	66	
Pulmon*	46	44	36	82	36	82	37	84	32	73	79	78	85	60	60	69	69	78	92	78	22	96	161	81	132	66	
State of Florida	31514	29407	21875	74	23418	80	23400	80	18365	63	57	55	93	53	53	52	52	78	92	78	22	96	161	81	132	66	

NOTE: This is the first statewide edition of the readiness report. The data are incomplete for a variety of reasons. See Introduction for details.

Table 2

07/17/92 FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION COORDINATION
READINESS FOR COLLEGE BASED ON ENTRY-LEVEL PLACEMENT TESTS 1990-91
STATE SUMMARY
BY COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY

COLL OR UNIV	NUMBER OF FTIC STUDENTS	NUMBER WHO TOOK ENTRY TEST	NUMBER & PERCENT READY IN							
			H	A	T	D	H	A		
			H %	A %	T %	D %	H %	A %		
BREV -1	786	178	153	85.0	72	40.4	158	88.6	53	29.8
BROW	2428	2240	1170	52.2	1733	77.4	1722	76.9	995	44.4
CFLA	531	500	312	62.4	383	76.2	383	76.6	246	49.2
CHIP	258	240	154	64.2	153	63.8	157	65.4	104	43.3
DAYT -1	60	50	8	16.0	35	72.0	40	80.0	5	10.0
EDIS	883	825	489	59.2	579	70.2	558	67.6	350	42.4
FKEY -1	42	27	13	48.1	18	66.7	18	66.7	10	37.0
GULF	365	355	254	71.5	259	73.0	270	76.1	191	53.8
HILL	1043	922	626	63.1	658	66.3	765	77.1	465	46.9
INDR	633	523	481	92.0	397	75.9	442	84.5	349	66.7
MAHA	941	798	540	67.7	631	79.1	599	75.1	413	51.8
MIAM	5947	5707	3114	54.6	3608	63.2	3268	57.3	2035	35.7
NFLA	120	89	73	82.0	63	70.8	69	77.5	54	60.7
OKAL	540	505	387	76.6	417	82.6	439	86.9	326	64.6
PALM	1254	1191	835	70.1	871	73.1	892	74.9	662	55.6
PASC	306	290	163	56.2	202	69.7	214	73.8	124	42.8
PENS	577	542	627	86.6	606	85.6	748	79.4	549	58.3
POLK	625	619	339	54.8	364	58.8	458	74.0	237	38.3
SAHF	1039	1001	691	69.0	743	74.2	706	70.5	523	52.2
SEMI	130	98	68	69.4	78	79.6	75	76.5	58	59.2
STLA	156	21	14	66.7	14	66.7	14	66.7	9	42.9
TALL	815	793	617	77.8	478	60.3	565	71.2	379	47.8
VALE	1647	1436	1122	81.5	1158	80.6	1156	80.5	925	64.4
CC TOTAL -2	21527	19420	12299	63.3	13718	70.6	13716	70.6	9062	46.7
FAHU	880	880	653	74.2	694	78.9	727	82.6	546	62.0
FAU	330	330	325	98.5	327	99.1	324	98.2	317	96.1
FIU	571	571	550	96.3	570	99.8	550	96.3	534	93.5
FSU	2078	2078	2028	97.6	2049	98.6	2060	99.1	2000	96.2
UCF	1151	1151	1127	97.9	1114	96.6	1121	97.4	1097	95.3
UF	3125	3125	3094	99.0	3114	99.6	3101	99.2	3070	98.2
UNF	312	312	307	98.4	308	98.7	301	96.5	295	94.6
USF	1282	1282	1247	97.3	1242	96.9	1245	97.1	1201	93.7
UNF	258	258	245	95.0	258	100.0	255	98.8	243	94.2
SUS TOTAL	9987	9987	9576	95.9	9699	97.1	9688	97.0	9303	93.2
TOTAL	31514	29407	21875	74.4	23418	79.6	23400	79.6	18365	62.5

* PERCENT OF TEST TAKERS READY FOR COLLEGE COURSES IN THE SPECIFIED SKILLS AREAS AS INDICATED BY SCORES ON APPROVED ENTRY-LEVEL PLACEMENT TESTS

-1 Some students enrolled in this institution are not included in this report due to coding errors
-2 Data for students enrolled at Florida Community College at Jacksonville, Lake City Community College, Lake-Sumner Community College, St. Johns River Community College, and St. Petersburg Junior College are not available and are not included in this report.

Table 3

07/17/92 FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION COORDINATION
READINESS FOR COLLEGE BASED ON ENTRY-LEVEL PLACEMENT TESTS 1990-91
DISTRICT SUMMARY
DISTRICT * (13) DADE

COLL OR UNIV	NUMBER OF FTIC STUDENTS	NUMBER WHO TOOK ENTRY TEST	NUMBER & PERCENT READY IN							
			H	A	T	D	H	A		
			H %	A %	T %	D %	H %	A %		
BROW	204	180	87	48.3	135	75.0	130	72.2	72	40.0
CFLA	1	1	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	100.0	0	0.0
CHIP	1	1	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	100.0	0	0.0
EDIS	4	3	2	66.7	2	66.7	1	33.3	1	33.3
FREY	1	1	1	100.0	1	100.0	1	100.0	1	100.0
GULF	1	1	1	100.0	1	100.0	1	100.0	1	100.0
HILL	0	0	6	75.0	5	62.5	5	62.5	4	50.0
INDR	1	1	1	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
MAHA	1	1	1	100.0	1	100.0	1	100.0	1	100.0
MIAM	5773	5549	3038	54.7	3502	63.1	3169	57.1	1982	35.7
PALM	6	6	5	83.3	6	100.0	6	100.0	5	83.3
PENS	2	1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
POLK	1	1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
SAHF	34	32	22	68.8	22	68.8	19	59.4	14	43.8
TALL	36	34	28	82.4	17	50.0	21	61.8	10	29.4
VALE	6	5	4	80.0	2	40.0	4	80.0	2	40.0
FAHU	131	131	85	64.9	101	77.1	101	77.1	69	52.7
FIU	15	15	15	100.0	14	93.3	15	100.0	14	93.3
FSU	476	476	455	95.6	475	99.8	456	95.8	440	92.4
UCF	202	202	192	95.0	195	96.5	199	98.5	187	52.6
UNF	397	397	385	97.0	392	98.7	391	98.5	377	95.0
USF	4	4	3	75.0	4	100.0	4	100.0	3	75.0
UNF	77	77	74	96.1	73	94.8	72	93.5	68	88.3
UNF	2	2	2	100.0	2	100.0	2	100.0	2	100.0
TOTAL	7406	7151	4428	61.9	4972	69.5	4622	64.6	3274	45.8

* PERCENT OF TEST TAKERS READY FOR COLLEGE COURSES IN THE SPECIFIED SKILLS AREAS AS INDICATED BY SCORES ON APPROVED ENTRY-LEVEL PLACEMENT TESTS

Table 4

07/29/92 FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION COORDINATION
READINESS FOR COLLEGE BASED ON ENTRY-LEVEL PLACEMENT TESTS 1990-91

STATE SUMMARY

BY RACE AND GENDER

RACE GENDER	NUMBER OF FTIC STUDENTS	NUMBER & PERCENT READY IN																		
		NUMBER WHO TOOK ENTRY TEST	M	F	A	D	I	H	G	L	S*									
BLACK FEMALE	5147	4886	31.1	3726	61.9	2931	60.0	1979	40.5											
BLACK MALE	3250	3086	1800	55.3	1968	63.8	1847	59.9	1254	40.6										
BLACK UNKNOWN	1897	1800	1066	60.3	1058	59.8	1064	60.2	725	40.3										
HISPANIC FEMALE	5250	5019	3219	63.8	3554	70.4	3405	67.4	2380	47.1										
HISPANIC MALE	2976	2860	1813	63.4	2040	71.3	1891	65.1	1325	46.3										
HISPANIC UNKNOWN	2282	2199	1406	64.2	1514	69.2	1514	69.2	1055	48.2										
AM INDIAN FEMALE	103	86	65	67.7	74	77.1	82	85.4	50	52.1										
AM INDIAN MALE	57	53	35	68.0	42	73.2	45	84.9	29	54.7										
AM INDIAN UNKNOWN	46	43	30	69.8	32	74.4	37	86.0	21	48.8										
ASIAN FEMALE	931	886	767	89.0	722	81.1	705	79.8	628	71.0										
ASIAN MALE	456	431	378	87.3	368	85.0	349	80.6	309	71.4										
ASIAN UNKNOWN	475	451	409	90.7	354	78.5	356	78.9	319	70.7										
WHITE FEMALE	20020	18447	14878	80.7	16001	86.7	16238	88.0	13291	72.0										
WHITE MALE	10402	9988	7870	78.8	8851	88.6	8765	87.7	7151	71.6										
WHITE UNKNOWN	9225	8958	7008	82.9	7149	84.5	7482	88.5	6140	72.6										
OTHER FEMALE	47	45	40	88.9	41	91.1	39	85.7	37	82.2										
OTHER MALE	22	22	18	81.8	20	90.9	18	81.8	16	72.7										
OTHER UNKNOWN	25	23	22	95.7	21	91.3	21	91.3	21	91.3										
TOTAL FEMALE	31514	29107	23875	74.4	23418	79.6	23400	79.6	18365	62.5										
TOTAL MALE	17563	16442	11914	72.5	13289	80.8	12305	78.5	10084	61.3										
TOTAL UNKNOWN	13950	12964	9961	76.8	10128	78.1	10494	80.9	8281	63.9										

NOTE: This is the first statewide edition of the readiness report.
The data are incomplete for a variety of reasons. See Introduction for details.

Table 5

07/29/92 FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION COORDINATION
READINESS FOR COLLEGE BASED ON ENTRY-LEVEL PLACEMENT TESTS 1990-91

DISTRICT SUMMARY

DISTRICT = (13) OADE

RACE GENDER	NUMBER OF FTIC STUDENTS	NUMBER & PERCENT READY IN																		
		NUMBER WHO TOOK ENTRY TEST	M	F	A	D	I	H	G	L	S*									
BLACK FEMALE	1768	1715	849	49.5	961	55.0	812	47.3	516	30.1										
BLACK MALE	1127	1082	538	49.3	630	57.7	510	46.7	332	30.4										
BLACK UNKNOWN	641	623	311	49.9	331	53.1	302	48.5	184	29.5										
HISPANIC FEMALE	3827	3714	2255	60.7	2549	68.6	2386	64.2	1615	43.5										
HISPANIC MALE	2165	2104	1292	60.9	1454	69.1	1321	62.0	896	42.6										
HISPANIC UNKNOWN	1662	1610	973	60.4	1095	68.0	1065	66.1	719	44.7										
AM INDIAN FEMALE	9	8	5	62.5	5	62.5	8	100.0	4	50.0										
AM INDIAN MALE	7	6	4	66.7	3	50.0	6	100.0	3	50.0										
AM INDIAN UNKNOWN	2	2	1	50.0	2	100.0	2	100.0	1	50.0										
ASIAN FEMALE	164	158	131	82.9	123	77.8	116	73.4	101	63.9										
ASIAN MALE	72	69	54	78.3	54	78.3	46	66.7	40	58.0										
ASIAN UNKNOWN	92	89	77	86.5	69	77.5	70	78.7	61	58.5										
WHITE FEMALE	1629	1547	1179	76.2	1325	85.6	1291	83.5	1029	66.5										
WHITE MALE	968	922	615	74.8	724	80.1	672	81.8	545	66.3										
WHITE UNKNOWN	761	725	564	77.8	601	82.9	619	85.4	484	66.8										
OTHER FEMALE	9	9	9	100.0	9	100.0	9	100.0	9	100.0										
OTHER MALE	5	5	5	100.0	5	100.0	5	100.0	5	100.0										
OTHER UNKNOWN	4	4	4	100.0	4	100.0	4	100.0	4	100.0										
TOTAL FEMALE	7406	7151	4428	61.9	4972	69.5	4622	64.6	3274	45.8										
TOTAL MALE	4244	4098	2498	61.0	2870	70.0	2580	62.5	1821	44.4										
TOTAL UNKNOWN	3162	3053	1930	63.2	2102	68.9	2052	67.5	1453	47.5										

NOTE: This is the first statewide edition of the readiness report.
The data are incomplete for a variety of reasons. See Introduction for details.