



RESEARCH BRIEF

Research Services

Vol. 1102
November 2011

Christie Blazer, Supervisor

M-DCPS STUDENT PERFORMANCE IN INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE AND CAMBRIDGE ADVANCED INTERNATIONAL CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION PROGRAMS

At a Glance

This Research Brief summarizes the performance of M-DCPS students participating in the International Baccalaureate (IB) and Cambridge Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) programs. Outcome data are provided for the eight M-DCPS schools offering the two programs and corresponding examinations. Participation in international studies programs continues to grow, with over 4,500 examinations taken by M-DCPS students during the 2010-11 school year. The number of IB examinations taken increased by 13 percent from 2009-10 to 2010-11 and the number of Cambridge AICE examinations taken increased by 21 percent. A comparison of student outcomes between the two programs indicates that IB students were more successful in passing their exams and receiving diplomas than Cambridge AICE program students. Seventy-nine percent of IB examinations received passing scores, compared to 51 percent of Cambridge AICE examinations. In addition, 65 percent of students participating in the IB program received an IB diploma at the conclusion of the 2010-11 school year, while 53 percent of Cambridge students received an AICE diploma.

Beginning in the 2009-10 school year, Florida Senate Bill 1908 amended the School Performance Grade criteria for Florida's senior high schools. Half of senior high schools' performance grade is now based on FCAT scores and the other half is based on non-FCAT factors. Non-FCAT factors include the performance and participation of students in international studies programs, such as the International Baccalaureate (IB) and Cambridge Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) programs.

The IB and Cambridge AICE programs are rigorous pre-university curriculum and examination programs that emphasize the development of higher order thinking skills, including problem solving and creativity. The IB program provides students with a broad general education, while offering specialization in accordance with students' interests and plans. The Cambridge AICE program also provides a broad education but emphasizes an extremely flexible curriculum that can be tailored to students' abilities, interests, and career plans. The IB and AICE diplomas are recognized at colleges and universities throughout the United States and worldwide.

This Research Brief includes a description of the IB and AICE programs and data on the eight M-DCPS schools (four IB and four AICE) that implement these programs and administer the examinations. The number of students participating in each program, the percent of students receiving passing scores on their examinations, and the number and percent of participating students earning diplomas are provided.

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE (IB) DIPLOMA PROGRAM

Three IB programs span the years from kindergarten to pre-university. The programs can be offered individually or as a continuum: the Primary Years Program (PYP) (for students aged 3-12), the Middle Years Program (MYP) (for students aged 11-16), and the IB Diploma Program (for students aged 16-19). This report focuses on the IB Diploma Program that is offered at M-DCPS senior high schools. Teams from the International Baccalaureate foundation have authorized five M-DCPS high schools to offer the program: Coral Gables Senior, Coral Reef Senior, John A. Ferguson Senior, North Miami Senior, and South Dade Senior. Although Miami Beach Senior and South Dade Senior have started implementation of the IB program, they are not yet administering IB examinations so they therefore are not included in this report.

The IB Diploma Program is a two-year liberal arts curriculum designed to promote understanding of global citizenship encouraging students to become critical and compassionate thinkers and informed participants in local and world affairs. Students study six courses from the following six areas: language and literature; individuals and societies; mathematics and computer science; arts; experimental sciences; and language acquisition. The program has three additional core requirements that are designed to broaden students' educational experience: the extended essay, which requires students to engage in independent research relating to one of the subjects they are studying; a Theory of Knowledge course that encourages students to reflect on the nature of learning and different kinds of knowledge; and a Creativity, Action, Service (CAS) component that requires students to complete 150 hours of a combination of arts, athletics, and community service projects.

Students in the IB Diploma Program take written examinations in each subject. These examinations assess the extent to which they have mastered advanced academic skills such as analyzing and presenting information; evaluating and constructing arguments; and solving problems creatively. Basic skills are also assessed, including retaining knowledge, understanding key concepts, and applying standard methods. Examinations are scored on a scale of 1 to 7 for each subject. Students must earn a score of 4 or higher on each of six IB examinations (or a total of at least 24 points) in order to be eligible to receive the IB diploma, subject to certain minimum levels of performance across all components of the program.

Highlights of IB program outcomes, as illustrated in Tables 1-6, follow. The reader should note that results are not reported if less than 10 examinations were taken. For examinations taken in foreign languages, IB course descriptions are as follows:

- Course Level AB: Students have no previous background in the language; courses focus on giving students basic knowledge of both the language in everyday use and the culture of the places where it is spoken.
- Course Level A1: Language is the student's native language; courses focus on developing oral and written communication skills and performing literary analysis of works of literature produced in that language.
- Course Level A2: Students speak the language nearly fluently; courses concentrate on the literature and culture of the countries where the language is spoken.
- Course Level B: Students have 2-3 years of previous coursework in the language; courses focus on learning to communicate in the language in written and spoken forms.

Administration of IB Examinations

- In 2010-11, 2,813 IB examinations were taken in 27 content areas. The number of IB examinations taken by M-DCPS students increased by 13 percent from 2009-10 to 2010-11.
- During the 2010-11 school year, the largest number of IB examinations were taken at Coral Reef Senior. Thirty-six percent of M-DCPS IB examinations were taken by students attending Coral Reef Senior, 26

percent were taken at Coral Gables Senior, 26 percent were taken at John A. Ferguson Senior, and 11 percent were taken at North Miami Senior.

- From 2009-10 to 2010-11, Coral Gables Senior and North Miami Senior had the greatest increases in the number of IB examinations taken (37 percent and 32 percent, respectively). The number of IB examinations taken at John A. Ferguson Senior increased by 9 percent and remained relatively stable at Coral Reef Senior.
- In 2010-11, the most IB examinations were taken in English, History, and Biology.

IB Examination Results

- Across the four high schools, the percent of IB examinations receiving passing scores increased slightly from 2009-10 to 2010-11 (from 78 percent to 79 percent).
- During the 2010-11 school year, Coral Reef Senior had the largest number of IB examinations receiving passing scores (89 percent), followed by John A. Ferguson Senior (85 percent), North Miami Senior (67 percent), and Coral Gables Senior (65 percent).
- The percent of IB examinations receiving passing scores increased at three of the four M-DCPS high schools from 2009-10 to 2010-11, but decreased at Coral Gables Senior. John A. Ferguson Senior posted the largest increase in the percent of examinations passed (+11 percent).
- Across all four schools in 2010-11, the majority of examinations taken received passing scores in 25 of the 27 content areas.
- Overall, the 2010-11 content areas in which the highest percentage of examinations received passing scores were English, Spanish, Italian, and Social Anthropology. All Social Anthropology and Spanish Level A2 examinations received passing scores.
- Across the four IB schools, the 2010-11 content areas with the lowest percentage of passing scores were Economics and Physics.
- Across the four IB schools from 2009-10 to 2010-11, the largest increases in the percent of IB examinations receiving passing scores were noted in Design Technology, Information Technology in a Global Society, and Theatre. The largest decreases in the percent of IB examinations receiving passing scores were seen in Economics, Psychology, Visual Arts, German, and Business and Management.
- In most subjects, a higher percentage of IB examinations received passing scores at Coral Reef Senior than at the other three IB high schools in 2010-11. Exceptions included a higher percentage of examinations earning passing scores in Mathematics, Psychology, Theatre, and Visual Arts at John A. Ferguson Senior.

IB Diploma Results

- Districtwide, the number of students eligible to receive IB diplomas increased by 11 percent from 2009-10 to 2010-11 (from 423 students in 2009-10 to 469 students in 2010-11).
- A total of 305 M-DCPS students, or 65 percent of the 469 students who were enrolled in the IB program, received IB diplomas at the conclusion of the 2010-11 school year.
- Across the four M-DCPS high schools, the percent of IB program students receiving IB diplomas decreased by 8 percent (from 73 percent in 2009-10 to 65 percent in 2010-11).

- Of the four IB schools, Coral Reef Senior had the largest number of students eligible to receive IB diplomas and the greatest percent of students receiving IB diplomas in both 2009-10 and 2010-11.
- John A. Ferguson Senior was the only one of the four high schools to post an increase in the percent of IB students receiving diplomas. The percent of students receiving IB diplomas decreased at the other three M-DCPS high schools.

IB program outcomes are presented in the following tables. Data are provided for the four M-DCPS senior high schools combined and then separately for each school.

Table 1. Number of IB Examinations Taken and Percent of Examinations Passed
by Subject Area, 2009-10 and 2010-11
M-DCPS, All IB Schools Combined

Subject Area	# of Tests Taken		% of Tests Passed	
	2009-10	2010-11	2009-10	2010-11
Biology	270	323	57%	58%
Business and Management	44	33	68%	58%
Chemistry	139	116	59%	66%
Computer Science	2	3	n/a	n/a
Dance	0	6	n/a	n/a
Design Technology	34	38	53%	79%
Economics	28	14	50%	29%
English A1	422	461	98%	95%
Film	0	21	n/a	76%
French AB	4	3	n/a	n/a
French B	97	88	84%	82%
German B	29	25	100%	88%
History	396	451	74%	81%
Information Technology in a Global Society	37	53	57%	79%
Italian AB	5	1	n/a	n/a
Italian B	4	30	93%	90%
Mathematical Studies	237	300	89%	89%
Mathematics	203	158	66%	68%
Music	2	3	n/a	n/a
Physics	12	13	42%	46%
Psychology	130	153	74%	60%
Social Anthropology	0	22	n/a	100%
Spanish AB	3	8	n/a	n/a
Spanish A2	32	19	100%	100%
Spanish B	280	289	93%	94%
Theatre	20	66	65%	76%
Visual Arts	44	116	84%	71%
Total, All Subjects	2,484	2,813	78%	79%

Table 2. Number of IB Examinations Taken and Percent of Examinations Passed
by Subject Area, 2009-10 and 2010-11
Coral Gables Senior

Subject Area	# of Tests Taken		% of Tests Passed	
	2009-10	2010-11	2009-10	2010-11
Biology	21	103	10%	29%
Business and Management	37	30	62%	57%
Chemistry	4	17	n/a	0%
Computer Science	2	3	n/a	n/a
English A1	103	123	96%	90%
French B	26	23	81%	70%
German B	7	10	n/a	70%
History	77	112	46%	71%
Italian B	9	17	89%	88%
Mathematical Studies	85	91	98%	96%
Mathematics	18	35	61%	40%
Music	2	3	n/a	n/a
Physics	0	5	n/a	n/a
Psychology	81	77	73%	27%
Spanish A2	15	11	100%	100%
Spanish B	54	68	100%	93%
Visual Arts	2	14	n/a	36%
Total, All Subjects	543	742	77%	65%

Table 3. Number of IB Examinations Taken and Percent of Examinations Passed
by Subject Area, 2009-10 and 2010-11
Coral Reef Senior

Subject Area	# Tests Taken		% of Tests Passed	
	2009-10	2010-11	2009-10	2010-11
Biology	127	100	73%	75%
Chemistry	64	45	72%	78%
English A1	179	170	99%	100%
French B	43	36	84%	97%
German B	22	15	100%	100%
History	179	170	86%	92%
Information Technology in a Global Society	37	53	57%	79%
Mathematical Studies	59	85	98%	100%
Mathematics	117	79	68%	73%
Psychology	28	26	100%	96%
Social Anthropology	0	22	n/a	100%
Spanish A2	5	0	n/a	n/a
Spanish B	138	112	92%	100%
Theatre	0	24	n/a	83%
Visual Arts	28	81	96%	73%
Total, All Subjects	1,026	1,018	85%	89%

Table 4. Number of IB Examinations Taken and Percent of Examinations Passed
by Subject Area, 2009-10 and 2010-11
John A. Ferguson Senior

Subject Area	# of Tests Taken		% of Tests Passed	
	2009-10	2010-11	2009-10	2010-11
Biology	76	52	59%	64%
Business and Management	7	3	n/a	n/a
Chemistry	71	54	49%	76%
Dance	0	6	n/a	n/a
Design Technology	34	38	53%	79%
English A1	108	124	96%	95%
Film	0	21	n/a	76%
French AB	3	2	n/a	n/a
French B	23	21	83%	91%
History	108	124	74%	80%
Italian AB	5	1	n/a	n/a
Italian B	5	13	n/a	92%
Mathematical Studies	56	80	79%	91%
Mathematics	68	42	63%	83%
Physics	12	8	42%	n/a
Psychology	1	27	n/a	100%
Spanish AB	3	8	n/a	n/a
Spanish A2	12	8	100%	n/a
Spanish B	61	70	98%	94%
Theatre	8	13	n/a	85%
Visual Arts	14	21	64%	86%
Total, All Subjects	675	736	74%	85%

Table 5. Number of IB Examinations Taken and Percent of Examinations Passed
by Subject Area, 2009-10 and 2010-11
North Miami Senior

Subject Area	# of Tests Taken		% of Tests Passed	
	2009-10	2010-11	2009-10	2010-11
Biology	46	68	28%	71%
Economics	28	14	50%	29%
English A1	32	44	100%	84%
French AB	1	1	n/a	n/a
French B	5	8	n/a	n/a
History	32	45	78%	64%
Mathematical Studies	37	44	68%	52%
Mathematics	0	2	n/a	n/a
Psychology	20	23	40%	78%
Spanish B	27	39	70%	80%
Theatre	12	29	42%	66%
Total, All Subjects	240	317	61%	67%

Table 6. Number and Percent of Students Receiving IB Diplomas,
by School and M-DCPS Overall, 2009-10 and 2010-11

School	Number of Students Eligible for IB Diplomas		Number of Students Receiving IB Diplomas		Percent of Students Receiving IB Diplomas	
	2009-10	2010-11	2009-10	2010-11	2009-10	2010-11
Coral Gables Senior	103	124	57	44	55%	36%
Coral Reef Senior	178	170	155	144	87%	85%
John A. Ferguson Senior	108	127	77	95	71%	75%
North Miami Senior	34	48	20	22	59%	46%
Total, All IB Schools	423	469	309	305	73%	65%

CAMBRIDGE ADVANCED INTERNATIONAL CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION (AICE)

The AICE program is based on Britain's A Level examinations and is administered and assessed by the University of Cambridge International Examinations, a department of the University of Cambridge in the United Kingdom. The four-year curriculum progresses from two years of preparatory classes in grades 9 and 10 to participation in the AICE diploma program in grades 11 and 12. The program emphasizes the development of higher order thinking skills, oral skills, writing skills, problem solving, real word applications, independent skills, teamwork, and international understanding. AICE courses are the equivalent of those offered at the U.S. university freshman level or beyond. The AICE program is available at four M-DCPS high schools: American Senior, G. Holmes Braddock Senior, Ronald W. Reagan/Doral Senior, and Miami Lakes Educational Center, although a full diploma track program is not offered at American Senior.

The AICE program provides students with flexibility in class selection, allowing them to tailor their studies to their individual interests, abilities, and future plans. Students are required to complete six full-credit AICE courses and pass the corresponding examinations for each course. At least one course and examination must be from each of three subject areas: math and science; languages; and arts and humanities. The other three courses may be from any of the 46 content areas offered by the program, such as Business Studies, Environmental Management, Geography, History, Music, and Travel and Tourism.

The AICE program uses a point system to award diplomas at three levels - Distinction, Merit, and Pass - based on students' coursework performance and examination scores. Students are required to demonstrate knowledge, understanding, and application. They must also show that they have acquired the skills of analysis, synthesis, and evaluation. Examinations receive letter grades ranging from A to E, with A being the highest. The lowest passing grade of E (or a score of 3) is equivalent to a U.S. grade of C or a 3 on an Advanced Placement examination. Students must receive a score of E or higher on all of their examinations in order to receive an AICE diploma. Upon successful completion of the AICE program, high school students may be awarded up to 45 hours of credit from universities throughout the U.S. and from all public universities and colleges in Florida, based on each subject and examination grade earned.

Highlights of Cambridge AICE program outcomes, as illustrated in Tables 7-12, follow. The reader should note that the tables include only the subject area examinations taken by students at M-DCPS schools, although the AICE program offers courses and examinations in 46 content areas. Results are not reported if less than 10 examinations were taken. General Paper is multi-disciplinary subject matter drawn from across the curriculum. The syllabus encourages candidates to make cross-curricular links; develop a maturity of thought; and achieve an understanding and usage of the English language that enables them to express arguments, ideas, and opinions in a reflective and academic manner. Data on students receiving AICE diplomas are not provided for American Senior because the school does not offer a full diploma track program.

Administration of Cambridge AICE Examinations

- In 2010-11, AICE examinations were taken in 19 content areas. The number of AICE examinations taken by M-DCPS students increased by 21 percent from 2009-10 to 2010-11.
- During the 2010-11 school year, the largest number of AICE examinations were taken at Ronald W. Reagan/Doral Senior. Thirty-six percent of AICE examinations were taken at Ronald W. Reagan/Doral Senior, 28 percent were taken at G. Holmes Braddock Senior, 28 percent were taken at American Senior, and 8 percent were taken at Miami Lakes Educational Center.
- In 2010-11, AICE examinations were taken in more content areas (17) at Ronald W. Reagan/Doral Senior than at the other three Cambridge schools (12 content areas at G. Holmes Braddock Senior and 7 content areas each at American Senior and Miami Lakes Educational Center).

- From 2009-10 to 2010-11, G. Holmes Braddock Senior had the greatest increase in the number of AICE examinations taken (52 percent). The number of AICE examinations taken increased by 21 percent at American Senior and by 10 percent at Ronald W. Reagan/Doral Senior. At Miami Lakes Educational Center, the number of AICE examinations taken decreased by 1 percent.
- In 2010-11, the most AICE examinations were taken in English Literature, History, and Thinking Skills.

Cambridge AICE Examination Results

- Across the four M-DCPS schools, the percent of AICE examinations receiving passing scores decreased from 2009-10 to 2010-11 (from 55 percent to 51 percent).
- During the 2010-11 school year, Miami Lakes Educational Center had the highest percent of AICE examinations receiving passing scores (75 percent), followed by Ronald W. Reagan/Doral Senior (72 percent), G. Holmes Braddock Senior (47 percent), and American Senior (19 percent).
- From 2009-10 to 2010-11, the percent of AICE examinations receiving passing scores increased by 1 percent at Ronald W. Reagan/Doral Senior. The percent of AICE examinations receiving passing scores decreased at the other three schools (by 7 percent at Miami Lakes Educational Center, 5 percent at American Senior, and 4 percent at G. Holmes Braddock Senior).
- Across all four schools in 2010-11, the majority of examinations received passing scores in five of the 19 content areas: Economics, English Language, French Language, Psychology, and Spanish Language.
- Across the four AICE schools from 2009-10 to 2010-11, the largest increases in the percent of passing examinations were noted in Biology and English Language. The largest decrease was seen in Thinking Skills.
- In most subjects, a higher percentage of AICE examinations earned passing scores at Ronald W. Reagan/Doral Senior than at the other three Cambridge schools in 2010-11. Exceptions included a higher percentage of passing scores in English Language, English Literature, and Mathematics at Miami Lakes Educational Center.

Cambridge AICE Diploma Results

- A total of 59 M-DCPS students, or 53 percent of the 112 students enrolled in Cambridge full diploma track programs, received AICE diplomas at the conclusion of the 2010-11 school year. (The reader should note that data on students receiving AICE diplomas are not included for American Senior because the school does not offer a full diploma track program. In addition, Cambridge AICE diploma data are not available for the 2009-10 school year.)
- Ronald W. Reagan/Doral Senior had the highest percent of Cambridge students receiving AICE diplomas (74 percent), followed by G. Holmes Braddock Senior (47 percent) and Miami Lakes Educational Center (29 percent).

Cambridge AICE program outcomes are presented in the following tables. Data are provided for the four M-DCPS AICE senior high schools combined and then separately for each school.

Table 7. Number of Cambridge AICE Examinations Taken and Percent of Examinations Passed by Subject Area, 2009-10 and 2010-11
M-DCPS, All Cambridge AICE Schools Combined

Subject Area	# of Tests Taken		% of Tests Passed	
	2009-10	2010-11	2009-10	2010-11
Biology	65	135	11%	24%
Biology 2	0	1	n/a	n/a
Chemistry	97	98	11%	18%
Chemistry 2	0	6	n/a	n/a
Economics	42	67	52%	54%
English Language	237	196	76%	86%
English Literature	223	255	39%	47%
First Language Spanish	17	0	94%	n/a
French/French Language	21	25	100%	100%
General Paper	15	0	87%	n/a
History	267	247	45%	44%
Mathematics	94	124	50%	37%
Physics	36	66	14%	9%
Physics 2	0	7	n/a	n/a
Psychology	142	156	69%	62%
Sociology	28	25	25%	16%
Spanish Literature	0	1	n/a	n/a
Spanish/Spanish Language	70	96	100%	99%
Thinking Skills	93	249	96%	49%
Total, All Subjects	1,447	1,754	55%	51%

Table 8. Number of Cambridge AICE Examinations Taken and Percent of Examinations Passed by Subject Area, 2009-10 and 2010-11
American Senior High

Subject Area	# of Tests Taken		% of Tests Passed	
	2009-10	2010-11	2009-10	2010-11
Biology	0	58	n/a	0%
Chemistry	58	43	0%	0%
English Language	114	51	52%	63%
English Literature	86	98	7%	18%
History	129	65	26%	8%
Physics	14	13	0%	0%
Thinking Skills	0	157	n/a	22%
Total, All Subjects	401	485	24%	19%

Table 9. Number of Cambridge AICE Examinations Taken and Percent of Examinations Passed by Subject Area, 2009-10 and 2010-11
G. Holmes Braddock Senior

Subject Area	# of Tests Taken		% of Tests Passed	
	2009-10	2010-11	2009-10	2010-11
Biology	41	31	7%	19%
Chemistry	10	36	20%	28%
Economics	16	46	6%	35%
English Language	44	52	100%	87%
English Literature	58	85	57%	65%
History	44	52	30%	25%
Mathematics	33	65	9%	9%
Physics	0	10	n/a	10%
Psychology	26	58	50%	45%
Spanish Literature	0	1	n/a	n/a
Spanish/Spanish Language	33	31	100%	97%
Thinking Skills	20	28	100%	93%
Total, All Subjects	325	495	51%	47%

Table 10. Number of Cambridge AICE Examinations Taken and Percent of Examinations Passed by Subject Area, 2009-10 and 2010-11
Ronald W. Reagan/Doral Senior

Subject Area	# of Tests Taken		% of Tests Passed	
	2009-10	2010-11	2009-10	2010-11
Biology	24	46	17%	59%
Biology 2	0	1	n/a	n/a
Chemistry	29	19	31%	42%
Chemistry 2	0	6	n/a	n/a
Economics	26	21	81%	95%
English Language	47	64	96%	98%
English Literature	64	42	52%	55%
First Language Spanish	17	0	94%	n/a
French/French Language	21	25	100%	100%
History	79	99	75%	77%
Mathematics	50	41	74%	63%
Physics	22	43	23%	12%
Physics 2	0	7	n/a	n/a
Psychology	76	79	79%	75%
Sociology	28	25	25%	16%
Spanish/Spanish Language	37	65	100%	100%
Thinking Skills	57	49	98%	94%
Total, All Subjects	577	632	71%	72%

Table 11. Number of Cambridge AICE Examinations Taken and Percent of Examinations Passed by Subject Area, 2009-10 and 2010-11
Miami Lakes Educational Center

Subject Area	# of Tests Taken		% of Tests Passed	
	2009-10	2010-11	2009-10	2010-11
Biology	65	135	11%	24%
English Language	32	29	100%	100%
English Literature	15	30	93%	77%
General Paper	15	0	87%	n/a
History	15	31	93%	45%
Mathematics	11	18	64%	78%
Psychology	40	19	63%	63%
Thinking Skills	16	15	81%	93%
Total, All Subjects	144	142	82%	75%

Table 12. Number and Percent of Students Receiving Cambridge AICE Diplomas, by School and M-DCPS Overall, 2010-11*

School	Number of Students Eligible for AICE Diplomas	Number of Students Receiving Diplomas	Percent of Students Receiving Diplomas
American Senior**	n/a	n/a	n/a
G.Holmes Braddock Senior	38	18	47%
Ronald W. Reagan/Doral Senior	43	32	74%
Miami Lakes Educational Center	31	9	29%
Total, All Cambridge AICE Schools	112	59	53%

NOTES:

* Cambridge AICE diploma data are only available for the 2010-11 school year.

** Data on students receiving Cambridge AICE diplomas are not provided for American Senior because the school did not offer a full diploma track program.

CONCLUSION

This Research Brief summarized the performance of M-DCPS students participating in the IB and Cambridge AICE programs. The IB and Cambridge AICE programs are rigorous pre-university curriculum and examination programs that emphasize the value of broad and balanced study. Both programs promote the development of higher order thinking skills, intercultural understanding, and independent learning.

During the 2009-10 and 2010-11 school years, four schools offered the IB program and administered the corresponding IB examinations: Coral Gables Senior, Coral Reef Senior, John A. Ferguson Senior, and North Miami Senior. Four schools offered the Cambridge AICE program and administered the

corresponding examinations: American Senior, G. Holmes Braddock Senior, Ronald W. Reagan/Doral Senior, and Miami Lakes Educational Center. Participation in the two programs continues to grow, with the number of IB examinations taken increasing by 13 percent from 2009-10 to 2010-11 and the number of Cambridge AICE examinations taken increasing by 21 percent.

Over 2,800 IB examinations were taken by M-DCPS students in 27 content areas in 2010-11. Passing rates ranged from 65 percent to 89 percent at each of the schools, with an overall passing rate of 79 percent across the four schools. Coral Reef Senior had the highest percent of IB examinations receiving passing scores, followed by John A. Ferguson Senior, North Miami Senior, and Coral Gables Senior. Overall, 65 percent of the 469 students participating in the IB program received an IB diploma at the conclusion of the 2010-11 school year.

A total of 1,754 Cambridge AICE examinations were taken by M-DCPS students in 19 content areas in 2010-11. Passing rates ranged from 19 percent to 75 percent at each of the schools, with an overall passing rate of 51 percent across the four participating schools. Miami Lakes Educational Center had the highest percent of AICE examinations receiving passing scores, followed by Ronald W. Reagan/Doral Senior, G. Holmes Braddock Senior, and American Senior. Overall, 53 percent of the 112 students participating in Cambridge full diploma track programs received an AICE diploma at the conclusion of the 2010-11 school year. (Data on students receiving AICE diplomas are not included for American Senior because the school does not offer a full diploma track program.)

A comparison of student outcomes between the two programs indicates that IB students were more successful in passing their exams and receiving diplomas than Cambridge AICE program students. Seventy-nine percent of IB examinations received passing scores, compared to 51 percent of Cambridge AICE examinations. In addition, 65 percent of students participating in the IB program received an IB diploma at the conclusion of the 2010-11 school year, while 53 percent of Cambridge students received an AICE diploma.