THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PALM BEACH COUNTY, FL

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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 Rate[1] includes standard diplomas but excludes special diplomas and GEDs (General Education Diplomas).[2]

In FY2015, SDPBC outperformed Florida and six other large urban school districts[3] and increased the graduation rate from FY2014.

Summary of Results

- From FY2014 to FY2015, the SDPBC
  - o Increased the overall District graduation rate (includes both District operated[4] and charter school students) from 77.9% to 79.4%
  - o Increased graduation rates for District operated school students (84.3% to 85.3%) and charter school students[5] (36.0% to 40.3%)
  - o 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%)
  - o Increased the graduation rates among a majority of District operated high schools

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[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.

- 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:wl

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

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%

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	89.0
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

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
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
PB Virtual Franchise	84.2	96.2	100.0	100.0	100.0
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.

	Cohort Adjustments (Students Removed from the Denominator)	DENOMINATOR (Adjusted Cohort)	
		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: - 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.	- Standard diploma recipients - Special diploma recipients	- 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: - Other public or private high schools (not including DJJs) - Home-education programs - Deceased students	- Standard diploma recipients	- 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