



**THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
PALM BEACH COUNTY, FL**

**PAUL HOUCHENS
DIRECTOR**

**KEITH OSWALD
DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT/CHIEF OF SCHOOLS**

RESEARCH & EVALUATION
3300 FOREST HILL BOULEVARD, SUITE B-246
WEST PALM BEACH, FL 33406

**MARK HOWARD
CHIEF OF PERFORMANCE ACCOUNTABILITY**

PHONE: 561-434-8469 FAX: 561-357-7611
WWW.PALMBEACHSCHOOLS.ORG/DRE/

MEMORANDUM

December 20, 2018

TO: School Board Members

FROM: Donald E. Fennoy II, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools
Keith Oswald, Deputy Superintendent/Chief of Schools

SUBJECT: FY18 FEDERAL HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATES

On December 19, 2018, the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) released high school graduation rates for the State of Florida and the School District of Palm Beach County (SDPBC). The FY18 Federal High School Graduation Rate includes standard diplomas but excludes special diplomas and GEDs (General Education Diplomas).¹ This year marks the first cohort in which all students with disabilities (SWD) on Access Points curriculum are working to earn a standard diploma and included as graduates if successful.

The SDPBC has identified Graduation as a Long Term Outcome as part of the five-year Strategic Plan. In 2016, the Board established a goal of a 90% graduation rate for District operated students by the year 2021. For additional information on the District Strategic Plan, visit: <https://www.palmbeachschools.org/strategicplan/>

Summary of Results

In FY18, SDPBC outperformed Florida and five other large urban school districts for the fifth consecutive year (FY14-FY18), and has consistently increased the graduation rate, including from FY17 to FY18. District operated school students exceeded the Board's Strategic Plan goal of 90% by posting a graduation rate of 91.7%. Additionally, over the last two years, graduation rates for Black students and Hispanic students increased by 9.2 points and 5.2 points, respectively.

From FY17 to FY18, the SDPBC

- Increased the overall District graduation rate (includes both District operated² and Charter school students) from 85.0% to 87.2%
- Increased graduation rates for District operated school students from 90.0% to 91.7%, while Charter operated school students³ increased from 49.6% to 51.7%
- Increased the graduation rate for Black students by 3.8% (79.1% to 82.9%) and for Hispanic students by 1.8% (82.9% to 84.7%)
- 20 District operated schools reported graduation rates equal to or exceeding 90%

¹ Detailed information about the Federal High School Graduation Rate is provided in Appendix A.

² Includes students who also attended Alternative and DJJ school sites.

³ Both District operated school and Charter school students are required to meet the Florida *Standard Diploma* requirements.

- Among District operated High Schools, Palm Beach Lakes had the largest increase (4.6), followed by Atlantic (4.3), and Seminole Ridge (3.8).

From FY14 to FY18, the SDPBC

- Increased the District graduation rate by 9.3 percentage points (from 77.9% to 87.2%), which includes both District operated and Charter school students
- Increased the graduation rate for Black students by 18.1%, for Hispanic students by 8.0%, and for White students by 5.4%.

Table 1 reports the graduation rates for the five years (FY14 – FY18) for Florida, the SDPBC, and the other large urban school districts. Tables 2 – 4 show the graduation rates for the five years (FY14 – FY18) for Black, Hispanic, and White students. Table 5 reports the graduation rates for the five years (FY14 – FY18) 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, for five years (FY14 – FY18).

If you have questions about graduation rates, please contact Mark Howard, Chief of Performance Accountability, at 434-8851. For information regarding SDPBC initiatives to increase graduation, please contact Keith Oswald, Deputy Superintendent/Chief of Schools, at 649-6805. For questions regarding specific schools, contact the appropriate Regional/Instructional superintendent.

Next Steps for Schools:

Using the Executive Summary and the Graduation Rate Analysis Tool (available January 10, 2019), reflect on the following questions:

1. How does our overall rate compare to the prior year? The last five years? What trends do you see?
2. Are there differences between groups of students by race/ethnicity or gender?
3. Which of the “W” (withdrawal) codes had the greatest increase, decrease?
4. What percentage of students compared to the prior year are Non-graduates, Dropouts? Why?
5. Did the percentage of graduates who met the assessment requirement with a concordant score increase or decrease? Which students? Why? How can we better support them?
6. Did the percentage of Non-graduates who did not meet the credit or GPA requirement increase or decrease? Why? Which students? How can we better support them?
7. What are we doing to monitor students beginning in the ninth grade and tracking them to graduation?

DEF/KO/MH/PH/RP/BS:tm

Attachments

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

Table 1. FY14-FY18 Federal Graduation Rate for Florida and Large Urban Districts*

	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18
Florida	76.1%	77.9%	80.7%	82.3%	86.1%
Palm Beach	77.9%	79.4%	82.3%	85.0%	87.2%
Broward	74.2%	76.6%	78.7%	81.0%	84.3%
Dade	76.6%	78.1%	80.4%	80.7%	85.4%
Duval	74.0%	76.6%	78.8%	80.8%	85.1%
Hillsborough	73.5%	76.0%	79.1%	82.9%	85.8%
Orange	74.6%	77.6%	81.3%	84.7%	88.9%
Pinellas	76.2%	78.3%	80.1%	82.9%	86.0%

*Florida urban school districts exceeding 100,000 students.

Table 2. FY14-FY18 Federal Graduation Rate for Florida and Palm Beach by Student Subgroup

	Subgroup	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18
Florida	Black	64.7%	68.0%	72.3%	74.8%	80.9%
	Hispanic	75.0%	76.7%	79.5%	81.3%	85.1%
	White	81.7%	82.8%	85.1%	86.2%	89.0%
	ELL	55.8%	59.5%	62.0%	67.3%	75.0%
	FRL	67.7%	70.4%	74.4%	76.8%	82.0%
	SWD	55.1%	56.8%	61.6%	66.0%	77.0%
Palm Beach	Black	64.8%	69.1%	73.7%	79.1%	82.9%
	Hispanic	76.7%	76.3%	79.5%	82.9%	84.7%
	White	87.8%	88.5%	90.7%	90.9%	93.2%
	ELL	45.7%	50.9%	56.7%	67.0%	71.8%
	FRL	67.6%	70.8%	75.9%	80.0%	83.1%
	SWD	59.6%	64.1%	68.9%	71.2%	79.2%

Table 3. FY14-FY18 Federal Graduation Rate for Palm Beach District Operated and Charter Students

	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18
Palm Beach District Operated	84.3%	85.3%	88.3%	90.0%	91.7%
Palm Beach Charter Schools	36.0%	40.3%	39.4%	49.6%	51.7%

Table 4. FY14-FY18 Federal Graduation Rates for Palm Beach District Operated High Schools

Region	School#	School	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	1 Year Change
C	0581	FOREST HILL HIGH	77.2	83.0	87.3	89.3	90.1	0.8
C	1361	JOHN I. LEONARD HIGH	76.6	78.7	88.5	94.0	93.0	-0.9
C	0691	LAKE WORTH HIGH	73.3	78.9	74.9	82.0	84.1	2.1
C	2631	PALM BEACH CENTRAL HIGH	90.4	91.3	91.6	93.9	95.4	1.5
C	2331	ROYAL PALM BEACH HIGH	77.2	82.8	88.4	90.9	92.8	2.0
C	2191	WELLINGTON HIGH	88.7	89.0	91.9	91.9	93.6	1.7
G	2301	GLADES CENTRAL HIGH	70.3	64.8	75.1	84.2	86.9	2.6
G	1771	PAHOKEE MIDDLE-SENIOR HIGH	89.6	85.5	82.4	92.2	95.3	3.2
N	0395	A W DREYFOOS SCHOOL OF ARTS	99.4	100.0	100.0	99.1	100.0	0.9
N	2411	INDIAN RIDGE	20.0	NR	0.0	50.0	41.7	-8.3
N	0081	JUPITER HIGH	90.2	92.5	92.6	92.9	95.4	2.5
N	1371	PALM BEACH GARDENS HIGH	83.0	81.7	87.7	93.4	92.0	-1.5
N	1851	PALM BEACH LAKES HIGH	67.7	72.0	82.2	82.8	87.4	4.6
N	3861	SEMINOLE RIDGE HIGH	87.5	88.1	92.0	86.5	90.3	3.8
N	0151	SUNCOAST HIGH	99.2	99.4	100.0	100.0	100.0	0.0
N	2201	WILLIAM T. DWYER HIGH	89.2	90.8	91.0	91.0	92.3	1.4
S	0862	ATLANTIC HIGH	90.0	92.2	91.7	91.5	95.7	4.3
S	0961	BOCA RATON HIGH	93.9	91.8	91.9	93.8	93.1	-0.7
S	2361	BOYNTON BEACH HIGH	78.3	80.4	85.0	86.1	86.5	0.4
S	2181	OLYMPIC HEIGHTS HIGH	89.1	92.8	94.5	95.8	99.2	3.3
S	2001	PARK VISTA HIGH	89.6	92.8	93.9	95.2	98.8	3.6
S	1801	ROYAL PALM	11.1	0.0	0.0	28.6	6.3	-22.3
S	1611	SANTALUCES HIGH	83.2	84.1	88.1	92.0	90.4	-1.6
S	1681	SPANISH RIVER HIGH	93.7	90.4	93.9	95.6	97.5	1.9
S	2811	VILLAGE ACADEMY CENTER	85.7	94.4	97.2	100.0	100.0	0.0
S	3251	WEST BOCA RATON HIGH	86.5	85.7	92.3	94.3	96.1	1.8
V	7004	PALM BEACH VIRTUAL FRANCHISE	100.0	100.0	100.0	93.1	100.0	6.9

NR = Not Reported by FDOE. NA = Not available.

Table 5. FY14-FY18 Federal Graduation Rates for Palm Beach Charter Schools

Region	School#	School	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	1 Year Change
CH	3400	BELIEVERS ACADEMY	0.0	5.6	3.7	20.7	44.4	23.8
CH	2521	ED VENTURE CHARTER	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.0	9.1	1.1
CH	3398	EVERGLADES PREPARATORY ACADEMY	23.3	28.3	25.0	43.5	22.2	-21.3
CH	4081	FLORIDA FUTURES ACADEMY NORTH	0.0	0.0	4.3	2.4	1.9	-0.5
CH	3396	G-STAR	96.7	95.9	98.3	97.1	97.3	0.2
CH	1461	INLET GROVE COMMUNITY HIGH	86.6	83.6	92.4	97.4	96.3	-1.1
CH	3971	MAVERICKS HS AT PALM SPRINGS	12.0	13.0	10.7	10.5	12.5	2.0
CH	3924	PALM BEACH MARITIME ACADEMY HIGH	0.0	0.0	NR	83.3	76.2	-7.1
CH	2941	PALM BEACH SCHOOL FOR AUTISM	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	NR	
CH	3401	QUANTUM HIGH	8.5	5.7	10.7	11.4	14.0	2.6
CH	3391	SEAGULL ACADEMY	NR	NR	NR	NR	70.0	
CH	4013	SOMERSET ACADEMY CANYONS HIGH	0.0	0.0	0.0	95.5	99.2	3.7
CH	1571	SOUTH TECH ACADEMY	92.8	94.8	95.8	93.5	97.8	4.3
CH	3083	THE LEARNING ACADEMY ELS CENTER EXCEL	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.0	45.0	40.0
CH	3386	TOUSSAINT L'OUVERTURE HIGH	1.9	5.7	3.4	3.0	1.4	-1.6
CH	3421	WORTHINGTON HIGH	5.1	3.3	3.4	8.8	12.4	3.6

NR = Not Reported by FDOE. NA = Not available.

Table 6. FY14-2018 Federal Graduation Rates for Palm Beach Alternative Schools

Region	School#	School	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	1 Year Change
AL	3039	ALTERNATIVE PROGRAM CENTRAL	NR	NR	NR	0.0	14.3	14.3
AL	3101	CROSSROADS ACADEMY	18.8	16.5	36.8	41.4	31.1	-10.3
AL	3024	HIGHRIDGE	NR	0.0	NR	NR	NR	
AL	3355	RIVIERA BEACH PREPARATORY & ACHIEVE	19.4	22.4	33.6	48.3	47.1	-1.2
AL	3046	SOUTH INTENSIVE TRANSITION	14.3	15.0	NR	NR	NR	
AL	0842	TURNING POINTS ACADEMY	0.0	19.0	14.3	9.1	17.2	8.2
DJ	3005	AMIKIDS PALM BEACH	NR	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
DJ	3010	PACE CENTER FOR GIRLS	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	
DJ	3002	PALM BEACH COUNTY JAIL	4.2	NR	0.0	NR	NR	
DJ	3354	PALM BEACH JUVENILE CORRECTIONAL	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	

NR = Not Reported by FDOE. 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 FY12, 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.

		DENOMINATOR (Adjusted Cohort)	
	Cohort Adjustments (Students Removed from the Denominator)	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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Standard diploma recipients - Special diploma recipients 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Other public or private high schools (not including DJJs) - Home-education programs - Deceased students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Standard diploma recipients 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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