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December 18, 2014

MEMORANDUM

TO: School Board Members

FROM: E. Wayne Gent, Superintendent

SUBJECT: **FY2014 HIGH SCHOOL FEDERAL GRADUATION RATES**

On December 18, 2014, the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) released graduation rates for the State of Florida and the School District of Palm Beach County (SDPBC). In FY2012, the FDOE accountability system began using the Federal Graduation Rate, which is a more rigorous standard than the National Governors Association (NGA) rate used previously. The Federal Graduation Rate includes standard diplomas but excludes special diplomas and GEDs (General Education Diplomas).¹

In FY2014, SDPBC outperformed Florida and other large urban school districts² and was the only large urban district to have an increased graduation rate.

Summary of Results

- From FY2013 to FY2014, the SDPBC
 - District graduation rate, which includes both District operated³ and charter school students, increased (76.3% to 77.9%)
 - Reported a significantly increased graduation rate for District operated school students (81.6% to 84.3%) and a decreased graduation rate for charter school students⁴ (37.3% to 36.0%)
 - Increased the graduation rate for Black students (63.8% to 64.8%), Hispanic students (75.0% to 76.7%), and White students (85.5% to 87.8%)
 - Increased the graduation rates among a majority of District operated high schools
- From FY2010 to FY2014, the SDPBC
 - Increased the District graduation rate by 3.1% (from 74.8% to 77.9%), which includes both District operated and charter school students
 - Maintained a higher graduation rate than that of Florida for five consecutive years

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

² Florida school districts exceeding 150,000 students.

³ Includes students attending both Alternative and DJJ school sites.

⁴ Both District operated school and charter school students are required to meet the Florida *Standard Diploma* requirements.

Table 1 reports the graduation rates for the past five years (FY2010 – FY2014) for Florida, the SDPBC, and the other large urban districts.¹ Tables 2 – 4 show the graduation rates for the past five years (FY2010 – FY2014) for Black, Hispanic, and White students. Table 5 reports the graduation rates for the past three years (FY2012 – FY2014) 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.

EWG/KO/MH/RP/BS:pp
Attachments

Approved: _____
E. Wayne Gent, Superintendent

Attachments

cc: Division Chiefs
Area/Assistant Superintendents
Academic Directors
Principals

¹ Florida school districts exceeding 150,000 students

Table 1. FY2010-FY2014 Federal Graduation Rate for Florida and Large Urban Districts*

	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014
Florida	69.0%	70.6%	74.5%	75.6%	76.1%
Palm Beach	74.8%	74.3%	77.0%	76.3%	77.9%
Broward	72.4%	71.6%	76.4%	75.3%	74.2%
Dade	68.3%	71.3%	76.0%	77.2%	76.6%
Hillsborough	66.7%	69.3%	72.6%	74.1%	73.5%
Orange	71.8%	71.4%	73.9%	75.9%	74.6%

*Florida school districts exceeding 150,000 students.

Table 2. FY2010-FY2014 Federal Graduation Rate for Florida and SDPBC for Black Students

	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014
Florida	57.9%	58.6%	63.7%	64.6%	64.7%
SDPBC	62.4%	61.5%	64.8%	63.8%	64.8%

Table 3. FY2010-FY2014 Federal Graduation Rate for Florida and SDPBC for Hispanic Students

	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014
Florida	68.1%	69.4%	72.9%	74.9%	75.0%
SDPBC	72.7%	69.8%	72.2%	75.0%	76.7%

Table 4. FY2010-FY2014 Federal Graduation Rate for Florida and SDPBC for White Students

	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014
Florida	74.1%	76.2%	79.4%	80.5%	81.7%
SDPBC	83.9%	85.3%	86.6%	85.5%	87.8%

Table 5. FY2012-FY2014 Federal Graduation Rate for SDPBC District Operated and Charter Students

	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014
SDPBC District Operated	80.4%	81.6%	84.3%
SDPBC Charter	45.4%	37.3%	36.0%

Table 6. FY2010-2014 Federal Graduation Rates for SDPBC District Operated High Schools

	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014
AW Dreyfoos School of Arts	98.5	99.1	100.0	99.4	99.4
Atlantic High	84.2	83.6	86.2	85.7	90.0
Boca Raton High	85.9	85.8	89.6	91.0	93.9
Boynton Beach Community High	72.8	65.5	74.7	77.3	78.3
Forest Hill High	72.4	74.7	68.6	79.2	77.2
Glades Central High	71.6	65.5	76.1	71.1	70.3
John I Leonard High	69.4	69.3	72.7	74.2	76.6
Jupiter High	91.2	87.7	88.6	88.5	90.2
Lake Worth High	75.2	69.8	70.7	76.5	73.3
Olympic Heights High	80.0	82.9	81.5	86.9	89.1
Pahokee Middle/Senior High	75.0	72.0	75.0	74.3	89.6
Palm Beach Central High	91.1	91.1	91.3	91.5	90.4
Palm Beach Gardens High	77.7	75.3	77.5	80.4	83.0
Palm Beach Lakes High	67.6	63.4	64.9	67.5	67.7
Park Vista Community High	89.9	89.1	89.7	92.2	89.6
Royal Palm Beach High	77.0	70.9	74.9	76.0	77.2
Santaluces High	73.7	75.9	77.8	78.3	83.2
Seminole Ridge Community High	84.5	82.2	83.7	82.7	87.5
Spanish River High	93.0	91.9	94.5	90.9	93.7
Suncoast High	99.7	99.7	100.0	100.0	99.2
Village Academy Center	*	77.8	86.8	89.7	85.7
Wellington High	82.3	83.2	86.2	82.4	88.7
West Boca Raton Community High	87.8	87.1	86.9	87.7	86.5
WT Dwyer High	79.0	80.9	84.3	82.1	89.2

Table 7. FY2010-2014 Federal Graduation Rates for SDPBC Charter High Schools

	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014
Believers Acad	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Ed Venture Charter	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Everglades Preparatory Acad	16.1	16.7	20.0	34.0	23.3
Excel Leadership Acad	9.2	1.6	1.0	1.1	0.0
G-Star	95.8	91.5	96.1	93.3	96.7
Gulfstream LIFE Acad	*	*	*	*	*
iGeneration Empowerment	*	*	*	16.7	9.1
Inlet Grove High	88.8	82.8	92.1	86.3	86.6
Leadership Acad West	73.9	57.1	65.6	69.0	52.9
Mavericks High of Palm Springs	*	*	10.1	5.8	12.0
Quantum High	*	*	*	5.5	8.5
Renaissance Learning Acad	*	*	*	0.0	0.0
Riviera Beach Maritime Acad	64.7	81.8	79.3	81.6	90.0
Seagull Acad	0.0	0.0	*	0.0	*
South Tech Academy	83.8	86.7	88.0	89.6	92.8
Tomorrows Promise	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Toussaint L'Ouverture High	10.5	2.5	3.9	0.0	1.9
Worthington High	*	*	*	4.0	5.1

* indicates no data reported or less than 10 students in cohort

Table 8. FY2010-2014 Federal Graduation Rates for SDPBC Alternative High Schools

	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014
Alternative Program Central	*	*	0.0	*	*
Alternative Program North	*	16.7	*	14.3	NA
Amikids Palm Beach	*	*	*	*	*
Crossroads Acad	32.7	12.2	21.4	14.5	18.8
Drop Back In Acad of PBC	10.6	2.1	1.4	0.0	NA
PB Virtual Franchise	63.2	84.2	96.2	100.0	100.0
Gold Coast Community	*	0.0	0.0	0.0	*
Indian Ridge	15.4	*	20.0	26.7	20.0
Intensive Transition South	17.9	7.1	25.0	10.0	14.3
Pace Center For Girls	*	*	*	*	*
Palm Beach County Jail	1.2	0.0	1.3	0.0	4.2
Palm Beach Juvenile Correction	*	*	5.9	0.0	*
PB Reg Juv Detention Center	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	*
Riviera Beach Prep	4.3	7.8	13.0	26.1	19.4
Royal Palm (ESE)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	11.1
Turning Points Academy	0.0	8.0	4.8	6.7	0.0

* 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.

		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