



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

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MEMORANDUM

January 9, 2020

TO: School Board Members

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

SUBJECT: FY19 FEDERAL HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATES

On January 9, 2020, 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 FY19 Federal High School Graduation Rate includes standard diplomas but excludes special diplomas and GEDs (General Education Diplomas). Students with Disabilities (SWD) on Access Points curriculum are working to earn a standard diploma and are included as graduates, if successful.¹

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 FY19, SDPBC outperformed Florida and four other large urban school districts by maintaining a stable graduation rate from FY18 to FY19. District operated high schools exceeded the Board's Strategic Plan goal of 90% by posting a graduation rate of 91.6%.

From FY18 to FY19, the SDPBC:

- Maintained a stable overall District graduation rate (including both District operated² and Charter schools) from 87.2% to 87.1%,
- Continued higher graduation rates for District operated schools from 91.7% to 91.6% compared to Charter schools³ from 51.7% to 52.6%,
- Increased the graduation rate for SWD students by 3.4 percentage points (79.2% to 82.6%),
- Decreased the graduation rate for English Language Learners (ELL) students by 3.1 percentage points (71.8% to 68.7%),
- 20 District operated high schools (83%) and Palm Beach Virtual School reported graduation rates equal to or exceeding 90%, and

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. Less than 1% increase/decrease is considered as stable.

- Among District operated high schools, Glades Central had the largest increase (4.3 percentage points), followed by Santaluces Community (3.2 percentage points), and Boca Raton Community (3.0 percentage points).

From FY15 to FY19, the SDPBC:

- Increased the District graduation rate by 7.7% (from 79.4% to 87.1%), which includes both District operated and Charter school students,
- Increased graduation rate for all student subgroups with the largest increase among SWD students (18.5 percentage points), followed by ELL students (17.8 percentage points), and Free or Reduced Lunch (FRL) students (11.9 percentage points),
- Increased the graduation rates for Black students by 14.5 percentage points, for Hispanic students by 8.6 percentage points, and for White students by 4.5 percentage points, and
- Increased the District graduation rate by 6.3 percentage points for District operated schools and by 12.3 percentage points for Charter schools.

Table 1 reports the graduation rates for the five years (FY15 – FY19) for Florida, the SDPBC, and the other large urban school districts. Table 2 shows the graduation rates for the five years (FY15 – FY19) for Black, Hispanic, White, ELL, FRL, and SWD students. Table 3 reports the graduation rates for the five years (FY15 – FY19) for SDPBC District operated and Charter schools. Tables 4 - 6 report graduation rates for District operated high schools, Charter high schools, and Alternative high schools, respectively, for five years (FY15 – FY19).

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 rates, please contact Dr. Glenda Sheffield, Chief Academic Officer, at 434-8616. 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 (anticipated availability by January 17, 2020), 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 or 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/RC/BS:tm

Attachments

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

Table 1. FY15-FY19 Federal Graduation Rate for Florida and Large Urban Districts*

	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	1-Year Change	5-Year Change
Florida	77.9%	80.7%	82.3%	86.1%	86.9%	0.8%	9.0%
Palm Beach	79.4%	82.3%	85.0%	87.2%	87.1%	-0.1%	7.7%
Broward	76.6%	78.7%	81.0%	84.3%	86.2%	1.9%	9.6%
Dade	78.1%	80.4%	80.7%	85.4%	85.6%	0.2%	7.5%
Duval	76.6%	78.8%	80.8%	85.1%	86.5%	1.4%	9.9%
Hillsborough	76.0%	79.1%	82.9%	85.8%	86.2%	0.4%	10.2%
Orange	77.6%	81.3%	84.7%	88.9%	88.4%	-0.5%	10.8%
Pinellas	78.3%	80.1%	82.9%	86.0%	88.4%	2.4%	10.1%

*Florida large urban school districts exceeding 100,000 students.

Table 2. FY15-FY19 Federal Graduation Rate for Florida and Palm Beach by Student Subgroup

	Subgroup	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	1-Year Change	5-Year Change
Florida	Black	68.0%	72.3%	74.8%	80.9%	81.5%	0.6%	13.5%
	Hispanic	76.7%	79.5%	81.3%	85.1%	85.9%	0.8%	9.2%
	White	82.8%	85.1%	86.2%	89.0%	90.2%	1.2%	7.4%
	ELL	59.5%	62.0%	67.3%	75.0%	75.0%	0.0%	15.5%
	FRL	70.4%	74.4%	76.8%	82.0%	82.9%	0.9%	12.5%
	SWD	56.8%	61.6%	66.0%	77.0%	80.6%	3.6%	23.8%
Palm Beach	Black	69.1%	73.7%	79.1%	82.9%	83.6%	0.7%	14.5%
	Hispanic	76.3%	79.5%	82.9%	84.7%	84.9%	0.2%	8.6%
	White	88.5%	90.7%	90.9%	93.2%	93.0%	-0.2%	4.5%
	ELL	50.9%	56.7%	67.0%	71.8%	68.7%	-3.1%	17.8%
	FRL	70.8%	75.9%	80.0%	83.1%	82.7%	-0.4%	11.9%
	SWD	64.1%	68.9%	71.2%	79.2%	82.6%	3.4%	18.5%

Table 3. FY15-FY19 Federal Graduation Rate for Palm Beach District Operated and Charter Students

	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	1-Year Change	5-Year Change
District Operated Schools	85.3%	88.3%	90.0%	91.7%	91.6%	-0.1%	6.3%
Charter Schools	40.3%	39.4%	49.6%	51.7%	52.6%	0.9%	12.3%

Table 4. FY15-FY19 Federal Graduation Rates for Palm Beach District Operated High Schools

Region	School#	School	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	1-Year Change	5-Year Change
C	581	FOREST HILL COMMUNITY HIGH	83.0	87.3	89.3	90.1	91.6	1.5	8.6
C	1361	JOHN I. LEONARD HIGH	78.7	88.5	94.0	93.0	91.7	-1.3	13.0
C	691	LAKE WORTH HIGH	78.9	74.9	82.0	84.1	78.8	-5.3	-0.1
C	2631	PALM BEACH CENTRAL HIGH	91.3	91.6	93.9	95.4	95.9	0.5	4.6
C	2331	ROYAL PALM BEACH HIGH	82.8	88.4	90.9	92.8	91.5	-1.3	8.7
C	2191	WELLINGTON HIGH	89.0	91.9	91.9	93.6	92.3	-1.3	3.3
G	2301	GLADES CENTRAL HIGH	64.8	75.1	84.2	86.9	91.2	4.3	26.4
G	1771	PAHOKEE MIDDLE-SENIOR HIGH	85.5	82.4	92.2	95.3	95.5	0.2	10.0
N	395	ALEXANDER W DREYFOOS JR	100.0	100.0	99.1	100.0	99.7	-0.3	-0.3
N	81	JUPITER HIGH	92.5	92.6	92.9	95.4	92.8	-2.6	0.3
N	1371	PALM BEACH GARDENS HIGH	81.7	87.7	93.4	92.0	90.4	-1.6	8.7
N	1851	PALM BEACH LAKES HIGH	72.0	82.2	82.8	87.4	83.1	-4.3	11.1
N	3861	SEMINOLE RIDGE COMMUNITY HIGH	88.1	92.0	86.5	90.3	91.7	1.4	3.6
N	151	SUNCOAST COMMUNITY HIGH	99.4	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.6
N	2201	WILLIAM T. DWYER HIGH	90.8	91.0	91.0	92.3	91.1	-1.2	0.3
S	862	ATLANTIC HIGH	92.2	91.7	91.5	95.7	93.9	-1.8	1.7
S	961	BOCA RATON COMMUNITY HIGH	91.8	91.9	93.8	93.1	96.1	3.0	4.3
S	2361	BOYNTON BEACH COMMUNITY HIGH	80.4	85.0	86.1	86.5	85.7	-0.8	5.3
S	2181	OLYMPIC HEIGHTS COMMUNITY HIGH	92.8	94.5	95.8	99.2	98.5	-0.7	5.7
S	2001	PARK VISTA COMMUNITY HIGH	92.8	93.9	95.2	98.8	98.8	0.0	6.0
S	1611	SANTALUCES COMMUNITY HIGH	84.1	88.1	92.0	90.4	93.6	3.2	9.5
S	1681	SPANISH RIVER COMM. HIGH	90.4	93.9	95.6	97.5	97.7	0.2	7.3
S	2811	VILLAGE ACADEMY CENTER	94.4	97.2	100.0	100.0	81.3	-18.7	-13.1
S	3251	WEST BOCA RATON HIGH	85.7	92.3	94.3	96.1	96.9	0.8	11.2

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

Table 5. FY15-FY19 Federal Graduation Rates for Palm Beach Charter Schools

Region	School#	School	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	1 Year Change	5 Years Change
CH	3400	BELIEVERS ACADEMY	5.6	3.7	20.7	44.4	48.0	3.6	42.4
CH	2521	ED VENTURE CHARTER	NR	NR	8.0	9.1	37.5	28.4	NR
CH	3398	EVERGLADES PREPARATORY ACADEMY	28.3	25.0	43.5	22.2	44.7	22.5	16.4
CH	4081	FLORIDA FUTURES ACADEMY NORTH	NR	4.3	2.4	1.9	6.1	4.2	6.1
CH	3396	G-STAR	95.9	98.3	97.1	97.3	95.3	-2.0	-0.6
CH	1461	INLET GROVE COMMUNITY HIGH	83.6	92.4	97.4	96.3	90.8	-5.5	7.2
CH	3971	MAVERICKS HS AT PALM SPRINGS	13.0	10.7	10.5	12.5	10.2	-2.3	-2.8
CH	3924	PALM BEACH MARITIME ACADEMY HIGH	NR	NR	83.3	76.2	91.2	15.0	NR
CH	2941	PALM BEACH SCHOOL FOR AUTISM	NR	NR	NR	NR	100.0	NR	NR
CH	3401	QUANTUM HIGH	5.7	10.7	11.4	14.0	22.8	8.8	17.1
CH	3391	SEAGULL ACADEMY	NR	NR	NR	70.0	NR	NR	NR
CH	4013	SOMERSET ACADEMY CANYONS HIGH	NR	NR	95.5	99.2	91.8	-7.4	NR
CH	1571	SOUTH TECH ACADEMY	94.8	95.8	93.5	97.8	97.9	0.1	3.1
CH	3083	THE LEARNING ACADEMY ELS CENTER EXCEL	NR	NR	5.0	45.0	57.1	12.1	NR
CH	3386	TOUSSAINT L'OUVERTURE HIGH	5.7	3.4	3.0	1.4	0.0	-1.4	-5.7
CH	3421	WORTHINGTON HIGH	3.3	3.4	8.8	12.4	14.6	2.2	11.3

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

Table 6. FY15-FY19 Federal Graduation Rates for Palm Beach Alternative Schools

Region	School#	School	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	1 Year Change	5 Years Change
AL	3423	ACCELERATION ACADEMY	NR	NR	3.3	NR	NR	NR	NR
AL	3039	ALTERNATIVE PROGRAM CENTRAL	NR	NR	NR	14.3	18.2	3.9	NR
AL	4101	CATAPULT ACADEMY	NR	NR	8.6	NR	NR	NR	NR
AL	3101	CROSSROADS ACADEMY	16.5	36.8	41.4	31.1	58.1	27.0	41.6
AL	3024	HIGHRIDGE FAMILY CENTER	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
DJ	3010	PACE CENTER FOR GIRLS	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
DJ	3002	PALM BEACH COUNTY JAIL	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
DJ	3354	PALM BEACH JUVENILE CORRECTIONAL	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
DJ	3006	PALM BEACH REGIONAL DETENTION CNTR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
AL	3355	RIVIERA BEACH PREPARATORY & ACHIEVE	22.4	33.6	48.3	47.1	50.8	3.7	28.4
AL	3046	SOUTH INTENSIVE TRANSITION	15.0	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
AL	842	TURNING POINTS ACADEMY	19.0	14.3	9.1	17.2	15.0	-2.2	-4.0

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