



SCHOOL DISTRICT
PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA

DIVISION OF QUALITY ASSURANCE
3300 FOREST HILL BLVD., SUITE B244
WEST PALM BEACH, FL 33406-5813

Ph: 561-434-8851 Fax: 561-357-196
www.palmbeachschools.org

FRANK RODRIGUEZ, PH.D.
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

CHERYL C. ALLIGOOD
CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER

December 11, 2013

MEMORANDUM

TO: School Board Members

FROM: E. Wayne Gent, Superintendent

SUBJECT: **FY2013 HIGH SCHOOL FEDERAL GRADUATION RATES**

On December 11, 2013, 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

Summary of Results

- From FY2012 to FY2013, the SDPBC
 - District graduation rate, which includes both Traditional² and charter school students, remained similar (77.0% to 76.3%)
 - Reported an increased graduation rate for Traditional school students (80.4% to 81.6%) and a decreased graduation rate for charter school students³ (45.4% to 37.3%)
 - Increased the graduation rate significantly for Hispanic students (72.2% to 75.0%), and maintained a similar rate for Black students (64.8% to 63.8%) and White students (86.6% to 85.5%)
 - Increased the graduation rates among a majority of traditional high schools
- From FY2009 to FY2013, the SDPBC
 - Increased the graduation rate by 6.2% (from 70.1% to 76.3%)
 - 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 Includes students attending both Alternative and DJJ school sites.

³ Both Traditional and charter school students are required to meet the Florida *Standard Diploma* requirements.

Table 1 reports the graduation rates for the past five years (2009-2013) for Florida, the SDPBC, and the other large urban districts.¹ Tables 2 – 4 show the FY2013 graduation rate data for Black, Hispanic, and White students. Table 5 reports the graduation rates for SDPBC Traditional and charter school students. 6 –8 report graduation rates for comprehensive high schools, charter high schools, and alternative high schools, respectively.

Should you have questions about the graduation rates, please contact Mark Howard, Director of Research, Evaluation, and Assessment, at 561-434-8850. For information regarding SDPBC initiatives to increase graduation, please contact Keith Oswald, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Learning Support, at 561-357-1113. For questions regarding specific schools, contact the appropriate area superintendent.

EWG/CA/FR/MH

Attachments

cc: Academic and Operating Chiefs
Area/Assistant Superintendents
Academic Directors
Principals

¹ Florida school districts exceeding 150,000 students

Table 1. FY2009-FY2013 Federal Graduation Rate for Florida and Large Urban Districts*

	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013
Florida	65.5%	69.0%	70.6%	74.5%	75.6%
Palm Beach	70.1%	74.8%	74.3%	77.0%	76.3%
Broward	68.4%	72.4%	71.6%	76.4%	75.3%
Dade	62.0%	68.3%	71.3%	76.0%	77.2%
Hillsborough	66.1%	66.7%	69.3%	72.6%	74.1%
Orange	67.4%	71.8%	71.4%	73.9%	75.9%

*Florida school districts exceeding 150,000 students.

Table 2. FY2009-FY2013 Federal Graduation Rate for Florida and SDPBC for Black Students

	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013
Florida	53.7%	57.9%	58.6%	63.7%	64.6%
SDPBC	55.4%	62.4%	61.5%	64.8%	63.8%

Table 3. FY2009-FY2013 Federal Graduation Rate for Florida and SDPBC for Hispanic Students

	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013
Florida	63.4%	68.1%	69.4%	72.9%	74.9%
SDPBC	66.7%	72.7%	69.8%	72.2%	75.0%

Table 4. FY2009-FY2013 Federal Graduation Rate for Florida and SDPBC for White Students

	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013
Florida	71.2%	74.1%	76.2%	79.4%	80.5%
SDPBC	80.3%	83.9%	85.3%	86.6%	85.5%

Table 5. FY2012-FY2013 Federal Graduation Rate for SDPBC Traditional and Charter Students

	FY2012	FY2013
SDPBC Traditional	80.4%	81.6%
SDPBC Charter	45.4%	37.3%

Table 6. Federal Graduation Rates for SDPBC Traditional High Schools

	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013
AW Dreyfoos School of Arts	99.1	98.5	99.1	100.0	99.4
Atlantic High	80.5	84.2	83.6	86.2	85.7
Boca Raton High	82.4	85.9	85.8	89.6	91.0
Boynton Beach Comm High	58.7	72.8	65.5	74.7	77.3
Forest Hill High	64.2	72.4	74.7	68.6	79.2
Glades Central High	65.4	71.6	65.5	76.1	71.1
John I Leonard High	66.9	69.4	69.3	72.7	74.2
Jupiter High	84.3	91.2	87.7	88.6	88.5
Lake Worth High	70.3	75.2	69.8	70.7	76.5
Olympic Heights High	73.1	80.0	82.9	81.5	86.9
Pahokee Middle/Senior High	66.9	75.0	72.0	75.0	74.3
Palm Beach Central High	85.1	91.1	91.1	91.3	91.5
Palm Beach Gardens High	73.4	77.7	75.3	77.5	80.4
Palm Beach Lakes High	58.1	67.6	63.4	64.9	67.5
Park Vista Comm High	88.4	89.9	89.1	89.7	92.2
Royal Palm Beach High	70.0	77.0	70.9	74.9	76.0
Santaluces High	69.9	73.7	75.9	77.8	78.3
Seminole Ridge Comm High	78.7	84.5	82.2	83.7	82.7
Spanish River High	86.6	93.0	91.9	94.5	90.9
Suncoast High	99.6	99.7	99.7	100.0	100.0
Village Acad Ctr	*	*	77.8	86.8	89.7
Wellington High	80.8	82.3	83.2	86.2	82.4
West Boca Raton Comm High	88.8	87.8	87.1	86.9	87.7
WT Dwyer High	70.7	79.0	80.9	84.3	82.1

Table 7. Federal Graduation Rates for SDPBC Charter High Schools

	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013
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	25.0	16.1	16.7	20.0	34.0
Excel Leadership Acad	15.8	9.2	1.6	1.0	1.1
G-Star	82.2	95.8	91.5	96.1	93.3
Gulfstream LIFE Acad	0.0	*	*	*	*
iGeneration Empowerment	*	*	*	*	16.7
Inlet Grove High	81.6	88.8	82.8	92.1	86.3
Leadership Acad West	50.0	73.9	57.1	65.6	69.0
Mavericks High of Palm Springs	*	*	*	10.1	5.8
Quantum High	*	*	*	*	5.5
Renaissance Learning Acad	*	*	*	*	0.0
Riviera Beach Maritime Acad	60.0	64.7	81.8	79.3	81.6
Seagull Acad	*	0.0	0.0	*	0.0
South Tech Academy	73.2	83.8	86.7	88.0	89.6
Tomorrows Promise	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Toussaint L'Ouverture High	10.7	10.5	2.5	3.9	0.0
Worthington High	*	*	*	*	4.0

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

Table 8. Federal Graduation Rates for SDPBC Alternative Schools

	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013
Alternative Program Central	0.0	*	*	0.0	*
Alternative Program North	5.6	*	16.7	*	14.3
Amikids Palm Beach	*	*	*	*	*
Crossroads Acad	*	32.7	12.2	21.4	14.5
Drop Back In Acad of PBC	*	10.6	2.1	1.4	0.0
Florida Virtual Franchise	*	63.2	84.2	96.2	100.0
Gold Coast Comm	*	*	0.0	0.0	0.0
Indian Ridge	30.8	15.4	*	20.0	26.7
Intensive Trans South	5.9	17.9	7.1	25.0	10.0
Pace Center For Girls	*	*	*	*	*
Palm Beach County Jail	0.6	1.2	0.0	1.3	0.0
Palm Beach Juvenile Correction	*	*	*	5.9	0.0
PB Reg Juv Detention Ctr	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Riviera Beach Prep	6.7	4.3	7.8	13.0	26.1
Royal Palm (ESE)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Turning Points Acad	6.7	0.0	8.0	4.8	6.7

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

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