



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

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

January 4, 2022

TO: School Board Members

FROM: Edward C. Tierney, Deputy Superintendent/Chief of Schools
Glenda Sheffield, Ed.D., Chief Academic Officer
Adam Miller, Ph.D., Assistant Superintendent, Performance Accountability

SUBJECT: FY21 FEDERAL HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATES

On January 4, 2022 the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) released high school graduation rates for the State of Florida and the District. The FY21 Federal High School Graduation Rate includes standard diplomas but excludes special diplomas and General Education Diplomas (GEDs). Students with Disabilities (SWD) on Access Points curriculum are working to earn a standard diploma and are included as graduates, if successful.¹ It should be noted that due to COVID-19, assessment requirements for graduation were waived for FY20 seniors who had yet to meet them, but were reinstated for FY21 seniors. This fact should be kept in mind when comparing the FY20 graduation rates with other years.

The District has identified Graduation Rates as a Long Term Outcome (LTO) in the most recent Strategic Plan. In 2016, the School 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 FY21, the District's overall graduation rate was 91.0%. In addition, the District's overall graduation rate exceeded Florida and 5 of the other large urban school districts as well as having the largest single year increase. District-operated high schools exceeded the School Board's Strategic Plan goal of 90% by posting a graduation rate of 95.9%.

During the one-year period from FY20 to FY21, the District graduation rate:

- Increased from 90.2% to 91.0%.
- Exceeded the graduation rates of 5 of the 6 other large urban school districts and Florida overall.
- Increased for Hispanic students by one percentage point and English Language Learners (ELL) by 2.5 percentage points.
- Were maintained among Black, White, and Free or Reduced Lunch (FRL) students (increases < 1 percentage point).
- Decreased by 1.4 percentage points among Students with Disabilities (SWD).

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

During the five years from FY17 to FY21, the District graduation rates:

- Increased by 6 percentage points from 85.0% to 91.0%.
- Increased to a larger extent among Black (9.7 percentage points) than among Hispanic (5.7 percentage points) and White (3.8 percentage points) students.
- Increased among ELL (15.7 percentage points), FRL (8 percentage points), and SWD (12.5 percentage points) students.

The attached tables provide five-year (FY17-FY21) historical summaries. Table 1 reports the graduation rates for Florida, the District, and the other large urban school districts. Table 2 shows the graduation rates for Black, Hispanic, White, ELL, FRL, and SWD students. Table 3 reports the graduation rates for District-operated and Charter schools. Tables 4 to 6 report graduation rates for District-operated high schools, Charter high schools, and Alternative high schools, respectively. Notably for District-operated schools:

- All but one high school graduated more than 90% of their students.
- 18 (75%) high schools graduated in excess of 95% of their students.
- Seminole Ridge and William T. Dwyer increased more than 5 points from FY20 - FY21
- Lake Worth and Seminole Ridge increased more the 10 points from FY17- FY21
- Crossroads Academy and Royal Palm School have increased graduation rates by 40 and 59 points respectively from FY17 to FY21.

If you have questions about graduation rates, please contact Dr. Adam Miller, Assistant Superintendent, Performance Accountability, 561-434-8851. For information regarding District initiatives to increase graduation rates, please contact Dr. Glenda Sheffield, Chief Academic Officer, 561-434-8616. 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 18, 2022), 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?
8. The FY22 graduation cohort will be the first to apply the higher concordant scores established by FLDOE. Schools must closely monitor students to ensure they meet the new higher requirement.

ECT/GS/AM/PH/RC:wI

Attachments

- c: Michael J. Burke, Superintendent
Academic and Operating Chiefs
Regional/Instructional Superintendents
Assistant Superintendents
Academic Directors
Principals

Table 1. FY17-FY21 Federal Graduation Rate for Florida and Large Urban Districts

	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	1-Year Change	5-Year Change
Florida	82.3	86.1	86.9	90.0	90.1	0.1	7.8
Palm Beach	85.0	87.2	87.1	90.2	91.0	0.8	6.0
Broward	81.0	84.3	86.2	89.4	89.1	-0.3	8.1
Dade	80.7	85.4	85.6	89.6	90.1	0.5	9.4
Duval	80.8	85.1	86.5	90.2	89.6	-0.6	8.8
Hillsborough	82.9	85.8	86.2	88.8	89.2	0.4	6.3
Orange	84.7	88.9	88.4	90.4	90.4	0.0	5.7
Pinellas	82.9	86.0	88.4	91.5	92.0	0.5	9.1

Table 2. FY17-FY21 Federal Graduation Rate for Florida and District by Student Subgroup

	Subgroup	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	1-Year Change	5-Year Change
Florida	Black	74.8	80.9	81.5	86.6	87.1	0.5	12.3
	Hispanic	81.3	85.1	85.9	89.5	89.4	-0.1	8.1
	White	86.2	89.0	90.2	91.7	91.8	0.1	5.6
	ELL	67.3	75.0	75.0	85.7	86.1	0.4	18.8
	FRL	76.8	82.0	82.9	86.9	87.2	0.3	10.4
	SWD	66.0	77.0	80.6	82.6	82.3	-0.3	16.3
Palm Beach	Black	79.1	82.9	83.6	88.6	88.8	0.2	9.7
	Hispanic	82.9	84.7	84.9	87.6	88.6	1.0	5.7
	White	90.9	93.2	93.0	94.3	94.7	0.4	3.8
	ELL	67.0	71.8	68.7	80.2	82.7	2.5	15.7
	FRL	80.0	83.1	82.7	87.4	88.0	0.6	8.0
	SWD	71.2	79.2	82.6	85.1	83.7	-1.4	12.5

Table 3. FY17-FY21 Federal Graduation Rate for District Operated and Charter Students*

	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	1-Year Change	5-Year Change
District Operated Schools	90.0	91.7	91.6	94.4	95.9	1.5	5.9
Charter Schools	49.6	51.7	52.6	57.1	57.8	0.7	8.2

* Estimated from School level Graduation Data

Table 4. FY17-FY21 Federal Graduation Rates for District Operated High Schools

Region	School#	School	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	1-Year Change	5-Year Change
C	0581	FOREST HILL COMMUNITY HIGH	89.3	90.1	91.6	90.1	95.0	4.9	5.7
C	1361	JOHN I. LEONARD HIGH	94.0	93.0	91.7	93.8	93.5	-0.3	-0.5
C	0691	LAKE WORTH HIGH	82.0	84.1	78.8	91.1	95.4	4.3	13.4
C	2631	PALM BEACH CENTRAL HIGH	93.9	95.4	95.9	97.6	96.5	-1.1	2.6
C	2331	ROYAL PALM BEACH HIGH	90.9	92.8	91.5	93.8	95.0	1.2	4.1
C	2191	WELLINGTON HIGH	91.9	93.6	92.3	94.9	97.8	2.9	5.9
G	2301	GLADES CENTRAL HIGH	84.2	86.9	91.2	94.2	87.5	-6.7	3.3
G	1771	PAHOKEE MIDDLE-SENIOR HIGH	92.2	95.3	95.5	98.3	99.0	0.7	6.8
N	0395	ALEXANDER W DREYFOOS JR	99.1	100.0	99.7	100.0	99.4	-0.6	0.3
N	0081	JUPITER HIGH	92.9	95.4	92.8	94.6	95.8	1.2	2.9
N	1371	PALM BEACH GARDENS HIGH	93.4	92.0	90.4	96.7	94.6	-2.1	1.2
N	1851	PALM BEACH LAKES HIGH	82.8	87.4	83.1	87.8	91.6	3.8	8.8
N	3861	SEMINOLE RIDGE COMM. HIGH	86.5	90.3	91.7	91.6	97.3	5.7	10.8
N	0151	SUNCOAST COMMUNITY HIGH	100.0	100.0	100.0	99.5	100.0	0.5	0.0
N	2201	WILLIAM T. DWYER HIGH	91.0	92.3	91.1	91.9	98.3	6.4	7.3
S	0862	ATLANTIC HIGH	91.5	95.7	93.9	96.8	94.9	-1.9	3.4
S	0961	BOCA RATON COMMUNITY HIGH	93.8	93.1	96.1	98.0	98.7	0.7	4.9
S	2361	BOYNTON BEACH COMM. HIGH	86.1	86.5	85.7	88.4	90.0	1.6	3.9
S	2181	OLYMPIC HEIGHTS COMM. HIGH	95.8	99.2	98.5	99.6	99.6	0.0	3.8
S	2001	PARK VISTA COMMUNITY HIGH	95.2	98.8	98.8	98.7	98.2	-0.5	3.0
S	1611	SANTALUCES COMMUNITY HIGH	92.0	90.4	93.6	95.8	97.6	1.8	5.6
S	1681	SPANISH RIVER COMM. HIGH	95.6	97.5	97.7	100.0	99.8	-0.2	4.2
S	2811	VILLAGE ACADEMY CENTER	100.0	100.0	81.3	100.0	97.0	-3.0	-3.0
S	3251	WEST BOCA RATON HIGH	94.3	96.1	96.9	98.1	98.0	-0.1	3.7

NR = Not Reported by FDOE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: FY21 FEDERAL HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE

Table 5. FY17-FY21 Federal Graduation Rates for District Charter Schools

Region	School #	School	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	1 Year Change	5 Year Change
CH	3400	BELIEVERS ACADEMY	20.7	44.4	48.0	47.8	30.4	-17.4	9.7
CH	2521	ED VENTURE CHARTER	8.0	9.1	37.5	33.3	33.3	0.0	25.3
CH	3398	EVERGLADES PREP. ACADEMY	43.5	22.2	44.7	86.4	93.5	7.1	50.0
CH	4081	FLORIDA FUTURES ACADEMY- NORTH	2.4	1.9	6.1	3.1	0.0	-3.1	-2.4
CH	3396	G-STAR	97.1	97.3	95.3	94.7	92.5	-2.2	-4.6
CH	1461	INLET GROVE COMMUNITY HIGH	97.4	96.3	90.8	98.2	97.4	-0.8	0.0
CH	3971	MAVERICKS HS AT PALM SPRINGS	10.5	12.5	10.2	6.3	11.0	4.7	0.5
CH	3924	PALM BEACH MARITIME ACADEMY	83.3	76.2	91.2	100.0	100.0	0.0	16.7
CH	2941	PALM BEACH SCHOOL FOR AUTISM	NR	NR	100.0	100.0	100.0	0.0	NR
CH	3401	QUANTUM HIGH	11.4	14.0	22.8	22.6	21.3	-1.3	9.9
CH	3391	SEAGULL ACADEMY	NR	70.0	NR	NR	40.0	NR	NR
CH	4013	SOMERSET ACADEMY CANYONS HIGH	95.5	99.2	91.8	95.0	98.6	3.6	3.1
CH	1571	SOUTH TECH ACADEMY	93.5	97.8	97.9	96.3	96.5	0.2	3.0
CH	3083	LEARNING ACADEMY ELS CENTER	5.0	45.0	57.1	61.5	66.7	5.2	61.7
CH	3386	TOUSSAINT L'OUVERTURE HIGH	3.0	1.4	0.0	13.5	10.0	-3.5	7.0
CH	3421	WORTHINGTON HIGH	8.8	12.4	14.6	12.5	27.5	15.0	18.7

NR = Not Reported by FDOE

Table 6. FY17-FY21 Federal Graduation Rates for District Alternative Schools

Region	School #	School	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	1 Year Change	5 Years Change
AL	3423	ACCELERATION ACADEMY	3.3	NR	NR	0.0	NR	NR	NR
AL	3039	ALT. PROGRAM CENTRAL	NR	14.3	18.2	10.0	NR	NR	NR
AL	4101	CATAPULT ACADEMY	8.6	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
AL	3101	CROSSROADS ACADEMY	41.4	31.1	58.1	42.9	81.8	38.9	40.4
AL	3024	HIGHRIDGE FAMILY CENTER	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
AL	3355	RIVIERA BEACH PREP & ACHIEVE	48.3	47.1	50.8	70.5	64.0	-6.5	15.7
AL	3046	SOUTH INTENSIVE TRANSITION	NR	NR	NR	25.0	30.8	5.8	NR
AL	0842	TURNING POINTS ACADEMY	9.1	17.2	15.0	39.1	0.0	-39.1	-9.1
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	PB JUVENILE CORRECTIONAL	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
DJ	3006	PB REGIONAL DETENTION CNTR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
ES	2411	INDIAN RIDGE	50.0	41.7	50.0	NR	NR	NR	NR
ES	1801	ROYAL PALM	28.6	6.3	52.6	70.6	87.5	16.9	58.9
VS	7004	PALM BEACH VIRTUAL	93.1	100.0	97.1	98.1	100.0	1.9	6.9

NR = Not Reported by FDOE

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