



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

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

January 13, 2023

**TO:** School Board Members

**THROUGH:** Michael J. Burke, Superintendent

**FROM:** John-Anthony Boggess, Chief of Staff   
Adam Miller, Ph.D., Chief of Performance Accountability 

**SUBJECT: FY22 FEDERAL HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATES**

On January 13, 2023 the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) released high school graduation rates for the State of Florida and the District. The FY22 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.<sup>1</sup> It should be noted that due to COVID-19, assessment requirements for graduation were waived for FY20 and FY21 seniors ([Emergency Order No. 2021-EO-02](#)) who had yet to meet them. This fact should be kept in mind when comparing the FY22 graduation rates with rates from the past two years.

### Summary of Results

In FY22, the District's overall graduation rate was 89.0%. In addition, the District's overall graduation rate exceeded Florida and the six other large urban school districts. While the graduation rate decreased from 91.0% in FY21 to 89.0% in FY22 and decreased for each subgroup, this was due to the removal of the assessment waiver that had been in place for FY20 and FY21. When compared to FY19 (the last comparable year) graduation rates increased overall and for each subgroup.

From FY19 to FY22, the District graduation rate:

- Increased from 87.1% to 89.0% overall and from 91.6% to 92.8% for District-operated schools.
- Increased for Hispanic students by 1.6, for White students by 2.1, for Free or Reduced-Price Lunch (FRL) students by 2.2, and Students with Disabilities (SWD) by 3.7 percentage points.
- Remained stable for Black students and English Language Learners (ELL) (increases < 1 percentage point).

During the five years from FY18 to FY22, the District graduation rates:

- Increased by 1.8 percentage points from 87.2% to 89.0%.
- Increased to a larger extent for SWD students (7.1 percentage points).
- Increased for Black (1.0 percentage point), Hispanic (1.8 percentage points), White (1.9 percentage points), and FRL (1.8 percentage points) students.
- Decreased among ELL (2.5 percentage points) students.

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

The attached tables provide five-year (FY18-FY22) historical summaries. Table 1 reports the graduation rates for Florida, the District, and six 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:

- Twenty (83.3%) of the 24 District-operated high schools had graduation rates of 90% or higher.
- Four had graduation rates of 100%: Pahokee Middle-Senior High, Olympic Heights Community High, Spanish River Community High, and Village Academy. Two additional schools had graduation rates of 99% or higher: Alexander W. Dreyfoos High and Suncoast Community High.
- Six (25%) increased their graduation rates relative to FY21, despite the removal of the waiver.
- Twelve (50%) increased their graduation rates relative to FY19 (the last comparable year).
- Eleven (45.8%) showed a positive 5-year change. Lake Worth Community High showed the largest 5-year change with a 6.6 percentage point increase followed by Seminole Ridge Community High with a 5.7 percentage point increase.
- Of the District Alternative and ESE centers, Crossroads Academy, Indian Ridge and Royal Palm School increased their graduation rates substantially from FY18 to FY22.
- Royal Palm School and Palm Beach Virtual School had graduation rates of 100%.

If you have questions about graduation rates, please contact Dr. Adam Miller, Chief of Performance Accountability, 561-434-8851. For information regarding District initiatives to increase graduation rates, please contact John-Anthony Boggess, Chief of Staff, 561-969-5829. 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 20, 2023), 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. For the FY23 cohort, higher ELA and Algebra concordant scores will be in place for graduation. How will we monitor students to ensure they meet the new higher requirements?

MJB/JAB/AM/PH/RC:jp

#### Attachments

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

**Table 1. FY18-FY22 Federal Graduation Rate for Florida and Large Urban Districts**

	FY18	FY19	FY20*	FY21*	FY22	1-Year Change	5-Year Change
Florida	86.1	86.9	90.0	90.1	87.3	-2.8	1.2
<b>Palm Beach</b>	<b>87.2</b>	<b>87.1</b>	<b>90.2</b>	<b>91.0</b>	<b>89.0</b>	<b>-2.0</b>	<b>1.8</b>
Broward	84.3	86.2	89.4	89.1	87.2	-1.9	2.9
Dade	85.4	85.6	89.6	90.1	88.2	-1.9	2.8
Duval	85.1	86.5	90.2	89.6	85.6	-4.0	0.5
Hillsborough	85.8	86.2	88.8	89.2	87.9	-1.3	2.1
Orange	88.9	88.4	90.4	90.4	87.0	-3.4	-1.9
Pinellas	86.0	88.4	91.5	92.0	88.1	-3.9	2.1

\*FY20 and FY21 students were able to graduate without certain requirements due to the COVID-19.

**Table 2. FY18-FY22 Federal Graduation Rate for Florida and District by Student Subgroup**

	Subgroup	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	1-Year Change	5-Year Change
Florida	Black	80.9	81.5	86.6	87.1	82.0	-5.1	1.1
	Hispanic	85.1	85.9	89.5	89.4	85.9	-3.5	0.8
	White	89.0	90.2	91.7	91.8	90.6	-1.2	1.6
	ELL	75.0	75.0	85.7	86.1	73.0	-13.1	-2
	FRL	82.0	82.9	86.9	87.2	83.1	-4.1	1.1
	SWD	77.0	80.6	82.6	82.3	83.5	1.2	6.5
Palm Beach	Black	82.9	83.6	88.6	88.8	83.8	-5.0	0.9
	Hispanic	84.7	84.9	87.6	88.6	86.5	-2.1	1.8
	White	93.2	93.0	94.3	94.7	95.1	0.4	1.9
	ELL	71.8	68.7	80.2	82.7	69.3	-13.4	-2.5
	FRL	83.1	82.7	87.4	88.0	84.9	-3.1	1.8
	SWD	79.2	82.6	85.1	83.7	86.3	2.6	7.1

**Table 3. FY18-FY22 Federal Graduation Rate for District Operated and Charter Students\***

	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	1-Year Change	5-Year Change
District Operated Schools	91.7	91.6	94.4	95.9	92.8	-3.1	1.1
Charter Schools	51.7	52.6	57.1	57.8	61.1	3.3	9.4

\* Estimated from School level Graduation Data

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: FY22 FEDERAL HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE

Table 4. FY18-FY22 Federal Graduation Rates for District Operated High Schools

Region	School#	School	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	1-Year Change	5-Year Change
C	0581	FOREST HILL COMMUNITY HIGH	90.1	91.6	90.1	95.0	85.9	-9.1	-4.2
C	1361	JOHN I. LEONARD HIGH	93.0	91.7	93.8	93.5	91.0	-2.5	-2.0
C	0691	LAKE WORTH HIGH	84.1	78.8	91.1	95.4	90.7	-4.7	6.6
C	2631	PALM BEACH CENTRAL HIGH	95.4	95.9	97.6	96.5	95.4	-1.1	0.0
C	2331	ROYAL PALM BEACH HIGH	92.8	91.5	93.8	95.0	91.8	-3.2	-1.0
C	2191	WELLINGTON HIGH	93.6	92.3	94.9	97.8	97.8	0.0	4.2
G	2301	GLADES CENTRAL HIGH	86.9	91.2	94.2	87.5	90.8	3.3	3.9
G	1771	PAHOKEE MIDDLE-SENIOR HIGH	95.3	95.5	98.3	99.0	100.0	1.0	4.7
N	0395	ALEXANDER W DREYFOOS JR HIGH	100.0	99.7	100.0	99.4	99.4	0.0	-0.6
N	0081	JUPITER HIGH	95.4	92.8	94.6	95.8	95.1	-0.7	-0.3
N	1371	PALM BEACH GARDENS HIGH	92.0	90.4	96.7	94.6	90.0	-4.6	-2.0
N	1851	PALM BEACH LAKES HIGH	87.4	83.1	87.8	91.6	79.7	-11.9	-7.7
N	3861	SEMINOLE RIDGE COMM. HIGH	90.3	91.7	91.6	97.3	96.0	-1.3	5.7
N	0151	SUNCOAST COMMUNITY HIGH	100.0	100.0	99.5	100.0	99.0	-1.0	-1.0
N	2201	WILLIAM T. DWYER HIGH	92.3	91.1	91.9	98.3	96.8	-1.5	4.5
S	0862	ATLANTIC HIGH	95.7	93.9	96.8	94.9	88.6	-6.3	-7.1
S	0961	BOCA RATON COMMUNITY HIGH	93.1	96.1	98.0	98.7	96.5	-2.2	3.4
S	2361	BOYNTON BEACH COMM. HIGH	86.5	85.7	88.4	90.0	80.7	-9.3	-5.8
S	2181	OLYMPIC HEIGHTS COMM. HIGH	99.2	98.5	99.6	99.6	100.0	0.4	0.8
S	2001	PARK VISTA COMMUNITY HIGH	98.8	98.8	98.7	98.2	97.9	-0.3	-0.9
S	1611	SANTALUCES COMMUNITY HIGH	90.4	93.6	95.8	97.6	92.1	-5.5	1.7
S	1681	SPANISH RIVER COMM. HIGH	97.5	97.7	100.0	99.8	100.0	0.2	2.5
S	2811	VILLAGE ACADEMY CENTER	100.0	81.3	100.0	97.0	100.0	3.0	0.0
S	3251	WEST BOCA RATON HIGH	96.1	96.9	98.1	98.0	98.2	0.2	2.1

NR = Not Reported by FDOE or fewer than 10 students.

Table 5. FY18-FY22 Federal Graduation Rates for District Charter Schools

Region	School #	School	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	1-Year Change	5-Year Change
CH	3400	BELIEVERS ACADEMY	44.4	48.0	47.8	30.4	50.0	19.6	5.6
CH	2521	ED VENTURE CHARTER	9.1	37.5	33.3	33.3	28.0	-5.3	18.9
CH	3398	EVERGLADES PREP. ACADEMY	22.2	44.7	86.4	93.5	81.5	-12.0	59.3
CH	4081	FLORIDA FUTURES ACADEMY- NORTH	1.9	6.1	3.1	0.0	5.4	5.4	3.5
CH	3396	G-STAR	97.3	95.3	94.7	92.5	94.1	1.6	-3.2
CH	1461	INLET GROVE COMMUNITY HIGH	96.3	90.8	98.2	97.4	95.4	-2.0	-0.9
CH	3971	MAVERICKS HS AT PALM SPRINGS	12.5	10.2	6.3	11.0	54.7	43.7	42.2
CH	3924	PALM BEACH MARITIME ACADEMY	76.2	91.2	100.0	100.0	89.7	-10.3	13.5

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: FY22 FEDERAL HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE

Region	School #	School	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	1-Year Change	5-Year Change
CH	2941	PALM BEACH SCHOOL FOR AUTISM	NR	100.0	100.0	100.0	92.3	-7.7	NR
CH	3401	QUANTUM HIGH	14.0	22.8	22.6	21.3	8.3	-13.0	-5.7
CH	3391	SEAGULL ACADEMY	70.0	NR	NR	40.0	NR	NR	NR
CH	4111	SLAM HIGH SCHOOL PALM BEACH					53.5		
CH	4103	SLAM BOCA					100.0		
CH	4013	SOMERSET ACADEMY CANYONS HIGH	99.2	91.8	95.0	98.6	96.7	-1.9	-2.5
CH	1571	SOUTH TECH ACADEMY	97.8	97.9	96.3	96.5	96.9	0.4	-0.9
CH	3083	LEARNING ACADEMY ELS CENTER	45.0	57.1	61.5	66.7	88.2	21.5	43.2
CH	3386	TOUSSAINT L'OUVERTURE HIGH	1.4	0.0	13.5	10.0	0.0	-10.0	-1.4
CH	3421	WORTHINGTON HIGH	12.4	14.6	12.5	27.5	9.4	-18.1	-3.0

NR = Not Reported by FDOE or fewer than 10 students.

**Table 6. FY18-FY22 Federal Graduation Rates for District Alternative Schools**

Region	School #	School	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	1-Year Change	5-Year Change
AL	3423	ACCELERATION ACADEMY	NR	NR	0.0	NR	NR	NR	NR
AL	3039	ALT. PROGRAM CENTRAL	14.3	18.2	10.0	NR	25.0	NR	10.7
AL	4101	CATAPULT ACADEMY	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
AL	3101	CROSSROADS ACADEMY	31.1	58.1	42.9	81.8	52.5	-29.3	21.4
AL	3024	HIGHRIDGE FAMILY CENTER	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
AL	3355	RIVIERA BEACH PREP & ACHIEVE	47.1	50.8	70.5	64.0	53.3	-10.7	6.2
AL	3046	SOUTH INTENSIVE TRANSITION	NR	NR	25.0	30.8	25.0	-5.8	NR
AL	0842	TURNING POINTS ACADEMY	17.2	15.0	39.1	0.0	15.4	15.4	-1.8
DJ	3010	PACE CENTER FOR GIRLS	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
DJ	3002	PALM BEACH COUNTY JAIL	NR	NR	NR	NR	37.5	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	41.7	50.0	NR	NR	71.4	NR	29.7
ES	1801	ROYAL PALM	6.3	52.6	70.6	87.5	100.0	12.5	93.7
VS	7004	PALM BEACH VIRTUAL	100.0	97.1	98.1	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0

NR = Not Reported by FDOE or fewer than 10 students.

**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.

		<b>DENOMINATOR (Adjusted Cohort)</b>	
	<b>Cohort Adjustments</b> (Students Removed from the Denominator)	<b>Graduates</b> (On-Time Graduates from the Denominator)	<b>Non-Graduates</b> (All Non-Graduates Remaining in the Denominator)
<b>NGA Rate</b> (Used for school years 2009-10 and 2010-11)	Transfers to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Other public high schools (including DJJs) or private high schools</li> <li>- Home-education programs</li> <li>- Adult-education programs*</li> <li>- Deceased students</li> </ul> * 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"> <li>- Standard diploma recipients</li> <li>- Special diploma recipients</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dropouts</li> <li>- Certificate recipients</li> <li>- HS Exit Option GED* diploma recipients</li> <li>- Continuing enrollees who are not on-time graduates</li> </ul> * Adult-Ed GED diploma recipients are classified as adult- education transfers and removed from the cohort (they are not non-grads here).
<b>Federal Uniform Rate</b> (Used for school years 2011-12 and beyond)	Transfers to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Other public or private high schools (not including DJJs)</li> <li>- Home-education programs</li> <li>- Deceased students</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Standard diploma recipients</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dropouts</li> <li>- Certificate recipients</li> <li>- GED diploma recipients</li> <li>- Special diploma recipients</li> <li>- Continuing enrollees who are not on-time graduates,</li> <li>- Transfers to adult education programs or DJJ centers who are not standard diploma recipients</li> </ul>