



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

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

May 28, 2024

TO: School Board Members

THROUGH: Michael J. Burke, Superintendent *MJB*

FROM: Jamie Wyatt, Chief of Staff *JW*
Adam Miller, Ph.D., Chief of Performance Accountability *AM*

SUBJECT: FY23 DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES COLLEGE MATRICULATION SUMMARY

The District has received the FY23 high school graduates' college matriculation data from the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC).¹ The Department of Research, Evaluation, and Assessment (DREA) has performed a preliminary analysis of college enrollment for students who graduated from the District between FY19 and FY23², persistence rates³ for students who graduated from the District between FY18 and FY22, and degree completion for students who graduated between FY16 and FY19.

This document provides an analysis of college enrollment, including the District graduates' college enrollment by year, institution type, and student demographics. To gain an understanding of middle and high school student achievement impact on the college enrollment, the relationships with grade 8 Florida Standards Assessment (FSA) achievement and high school SAT scores are also examined. The report also details enrollment at the most popular postsecondary institutions for the District high school graduates, college persistence, and degree completion rates.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Findings are summarized according to the following sections:

- General Enrollment Trends FY19 through FY23
- Enrollment by Student Demographics
- College Choice
- Student Achievement and College Enrollment
- Persistence Rate: FY18 to FY22 Cohorts
- Degree Completion
- Summaries by High School Attended

¹ The summarized data as reported by the NSC and may differ from the graduate counts from the Florida Department of Education because some students request their enrollment and/or degree records to be blocked from sharing.

² Graduates defined as end-of-year grade 12 students who earned a standard diploma (which does not include special diplomas or GEDs).

³ Persistence rate is the percentage of students who return to college at any institution for their second year.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: FY23 DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES COLLEGE MATRICULATION SUMMARY

General Enrollment Trends FY19 Through FY23

- Fifty-eight percent of District graduates enrolled in a postsecondary institution in the fall after graduation, which is similar to FY22 (59%) (Table 1).⁴ While college enrollment has increased since the height of the COVID-19 pandemic in FY20 (56%), it has not returned to pre-pandemic levels (64%). This decrease shows the impact of COVID-19 on FY20 to FY23 high school graduates and their postsecondary institution enrollment.
- From FY19 to FY22, the percent of District graduates attending a postsecondary institution (56% - 64%) was lower than the enrollment rates of national high school graduates in the corresponding years (62% - 66%) (Table 1).⁵ National high school data are not yet available for FY23 graduates.

Table 1. Number and percent of District graduates enrolled in postsecondary institutions in the fall after graduation

Year	Number of District Graduates	Number of Graduates Enrolled in College	Percent of Graduates Enrolled in College	National High School ⁶
FY23	12,898	7,539	58%	-
FY22	12,506	7,401	59%	62%
FY21	13,126	7,419	57%	62%
FY20	13,469	7,500	56%	63%
FY19	13,302	8,470	64%	66%

Note: The college enrollment may be impacted by NSC Institution coverage rate for the year or students' enrollment record blocked rate.

- For each cohort from FY19 to FY22, the percentage enrolled in the first year increased by 5 - 7 percentage points relative to the fall, with small additional increases in the second and third years (Table 2).

Table 2. Percent of District graduates enrolled in postsecondary institutions for the first time in the fall and for the first time in the following four years^{7,8}

Year	Percent Enrolled in Fall	Percent Enrolled by the end of First Year	Percent Enrolled in the Second Year	Percent Enrolled in the Third Year	Percent Enrolled in the Fourth Year	Total Percent*
FY23	58%	58%	NA	NA	NA	58%
FY22	59%	66%	3%	NA	NA	68%
FY21	57%	62%	3%	1%	NA	68%
FY20	56%	62%	5%	2%	1%	69%
FY19	64%	69%	3%	1%	1%	75%

Note: NA indicates no data available. * Total percent may appear to be different due to rounding. For FY23, the first year's enrollment is only the fall enrollment.

⁴ The overall enrollment changes may be impacted by colleges and universities that have withdrawn from the NSC or some students' enrollment and/or degree records are blocked at the student's request.

⁵ Reported by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics: <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/hsgcec.nr0.htm>.

⁶ "National School" refers to national high school graduates between age 16 to 24 as reported by the U.S. Department of Labor: <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/hsgcec.nr0.htm>.

⁷ Graduates are defined as grade 12 students who earned a standard diploma (which does not include special diplomas or GEDs). College enrollment does not include students who joined the military after graduation.

⁸ Fall is defined as anytime during the calendar year of graduation (e.g., May to December); the first year is the graduated year's May to next year July; the second year is August to next July, etc.

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- For FY23 graduates’ enrollment in college was similar to that of FY22 cohort. Enrollment rates at public university (Table 3), in-state (Table 4), a four-year college or university (Table 5) were increased relative to the pandemic years of FY20 and FY21, but have not recovered to FY19 enrollment level.

Table 3. Number and percent of District graduates enrolled in public and private institutions in the fall after graduation

Year	Number of District Graduates	Number Enrolled in a Public College	Percent Enrolled in a Public College	Number Enrolled in a Private College	Percent Enrolled in a Private College
FY23	12,898	6,718	52%	830	6%
FY22	12,506	6,652	53%	768	6%
FY21	13,126	6,580	50%	849	6%
FY20	13,469	6,604	49%	922	7%
FY19	13,302	7,571	57%	910	7%

Table 4. Number and percent of District graduates enrolled in an in-state and out-of-state postsecondary institution in the fall after graduation

Year	Number of District Graduates	Number Enrolled in an In-State College	Percent Enrolled in an In-State College	Number Enrolled in an Out-of-State College	Percent Enrolled in an Out-of-State College
FY23	12,898	6,711	52%	833	6%
FY22	12,506	6,594	53%	817	7%
FY21	13,126	6,608	50%	814	6%
FY20	13,469	6,719	50%	806	6%
FY19	13,302	7,646	57%	836	6%

Table 5. Number and percent of District graduates enrolled in two and four-year postsecondary institutions in the fall after graduation⁹

Year	Number of District Graduates	Number Enrolled in a Two-Year College	Percent Enrolled in a Two-Year College	Number Enrolled in a Four-Year College	Percent Enrolled in a Four-Year College
FY23	12,898	258	2%	7,282	56%
FY22	12,506	245	2%	7,162	57%
FY21	13,126	248	2%	7,177	55%
FY20	13,469	244	2%	7,263	54%
FY19	13,302	287	2%	8,191	62%

Enrollment by Student Demographics

- A gap between Female (64%) and Male (52%) enrollment among the FY23 cohort continued the historical trend (Table 6). Both Female and Male college enrollment was similar from FY22 (1 percent decreased), but slightly higher than FY21 (1 percentage higher for Female, 2 percentage points higher for Male). The enrollment rates of females and males continue to lag the FY19 cohort.

⁹ The NSC has classified Palm Beach State College (formerly Palm Beach Community College) as a four-year institution for all years in this analysis.

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- Fewer Black (46% - 59%) and Hispanic (48% - 58%) graduates were enrolled in a postsecondary institution than White graduates (68% - 72%) (Table 6). For Black students, the enrollment remained similar from FY22 (55%) to FY23 (54%), while for Hispanic students there was a 2 percentage point decrease (from 51% to 49%), and for White students, there was a 2 percentage point increase (from 68% to 70%). Correspondingly, the gap between White and Black students in FY23 (16%) were larger than FY19 (13%) but smaller than FY20 (23%). The gap between White and Hispanic students (21%) were larger than FY19 (14%), and remained the same as FY20 (21%).
- For FY23, enrollment rates for FRL, ESE, and ELL graduates were higher than FY20 (pandemic year) but still lower than FY19 (before pandemic), but still lower than before the pandemic in FY19.

Table 6. Number of graduates and percent enrolled in postsecondary institutions in the fall after graduation by demographic groups

Group	FY23		FY22		FY21		FY20		FY19	
	Count	Pct	Count	Pct	Count	Pct	Count	Pct	Count	Pct
ALL	12,898	58%	12,506	59%	13,126	57%	13,469	56%	13,302	64%
FRL	7,300	49%	7,127	50%	8,203	48%	7,625	45%	7,347	56%
ESE	1,828	36%	1,694	37%	1,642	34%	1,562	35%	1,588	43%
ELL	1,182	35%	1,076	40%	1,307	33%	1,515	28%	1,321	46%
Female	6,587	64%	6,430	65%	6,663	63%	6,880	63%	6,785	69%
Male	6,311	52%	6,076	53%	6,463	50%	6,589	49%	6,517	58%
Black	3,463	54%	3,235	55%	3,528	49%	3,697	46%	3,655	59%
Hispanic	4,407	49%	4,120	51%	4,310	48%	4,338	48%	4,087	58%
White	4,173	70%	4,324	68%	4,308	69%	4,529	69%	4,712	72%

College Choice

For all years, Palm Beach State College (PBSC) has been the most common college choice for District graduates (Table 7). PBSC remained the top choice for the FY23 graduates although there was a decrease of 6 percentage points from FY19.

Table 7. Number and percent enrolled in the five most frequently attended colleges/ universities in the fall after graduation

Institution	FY23		FY22		FY21		FY20		FY19	
	Count	Pct	Count	Pct	Count	Pct	Count	Pct	Count	Pct
Palm Beach State College	2,926	23%	2,932	23%	2,739	21%	2,895	21%	3,880	29%
Florida Atlantic University	863	7%	843	7%	882	7%	907	7%	751	6%
University of Central Florida	615	5%	557	4%	502	4%	644	5%	503	4%
University of Florida	553	4%	514	4%	545	4%	555	4%	579	4%
Florida State University	330	3%	354	3%	510	4%	341	3%	480	4%

Student Achievement and College Enrollment

- For FY23, enrollment for students with lower SAT scores (below 500 on SAT) decreased about 2 - 5 points from FY22 (decreasing from FY22's 31% - 54% to FY23's 29% - 51%). Although the enrollment rates were higher than FY20, it remained lower than those in FY19 (Table 8 and Table 9). Conversely, for students scoring in the 500 - 599 range, the enrollment rates remained consistent with FY22 (69% for both FY22 and FY23's in Reading; FY22's 74% to FY23's 75% in Math).

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- Among graduates with SAT Reading or Math scores above 600, including those in FY23, postsecondary enrollment was slightly increased from FY22 (From 83% to 87% for Reading and from 86% to 88% for Math) (Table 8 and Table 9).

Table 8. Number of District graduates and percent enrolled in postsecondary institutions in the fall after graduation by SAT Reading score

Score Range	FY23		FY22		FY21		FY20		FY19	
	Count	Pct	Count	Pct	Count	Pct	Count	Pct	Count	Pct
1 - 399	901	29%	796	31%	1,032	22%	854	18%	619	33%
400 - 499	4,545	44%	4,176	49%	4,638	44%	4,726	40%	4,651	52%
500 - 599	3,828	69%	3,677	69%	3,681	69%	3,955	68%	4,182	73%
600 - 800	2,870	87%	2,695	83%	2,799	85%	3,024	84%	2,953	85%

Table 9. Number of District graduates and percent enrolled in postsecondary institutions in the fall after graduation by SAT Math score

Score Range	FY23		FY22		FY21		FY20		FY19	
	Count	Pct	Count	Pct	Count	Pct	Count	Pct	Count	Pct
1 - 399	2,603	35%	2,138	39%	2,522	32%	2,501	29%	2,108	41%
400 - 499	4,038	51%	3,892	54%	4,139	50%	4,147	48%	4,382	59%
500 - 599	3,444	75%	3,376	74%	3,484	73%	3,737	72%	3,692	76%
600 - 800	2,059	88%	1,938	86%	2,004	87%	2,174	86%	2,223	87%

- For those District graduates who achieved a Florida Standards Assessment English Language Arts (ELA)¹⁰ Level 4 or 5 in grade 8, 71% - 84% entered in college. For graduates who had scored at ELA Level 1 in grade 8, 29% - 44% enrolled in a postsecondary institution. Moreover, graduates who had ELA scores in Level 2 in grade 8, 47% - 59% enrolled in a postsecondary institution (Table 10). For FY23 graduates who had an ELA Reading Level 1 in grade 8, the college enrollment decreased about 4% from FY22, and declined about 13% from FY19.

Table 10. Number of District graduates and percent enrolled in postsecondary institutions in the fall after graduation by grade 8 State Assessment FSA ELA Level

Score Range	FY23		FY22		FY21		FY20		FY19	
	Count	Pct	Count	Pct	Count	Pct	Count	Pct	Count	Pct
Level 1	1,606	31%	1,461	35%	1,790	31%	1,697	29%	1,681	44%
Level 2	2,002	49%	1,958	50%	2,230	49%	2,105	47%	2,246	59%
Level 3	2,795	63%	2,653	63%	2,578	62%	2,657	62%	2,787	69%
Level 4	2,365	76%	2,147	71%	2,108	73%	2,170	76%	2,050	79%
Level 5	1,450	84%	1,742	81%	1,569	82%	1,606	82%	1,341	83%

- Of District graduates who achieved a Florida Standards Assessment Math Level 4 or 5 in grade 8, 67% - 83% entered college. Of graduates who had Math Level 1 in grade 8, 30% - 48% enrolled in a postsecondary institution. Moreover, of graduates who scored at Math Level 2 in grade 8, 43% - 56% enrolled in a postsecondary institution (Table 11). For FY23 graduates who had a Math Reading Level 1 in grade 8, college enrollment decreased about 2% from FY22 and a decrease of 14% from FY19.

¹⁰ Prior to FY15, the state assessment was the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test 2.0 (FCAT).

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- In alignment with the SAT data, FY23 graduates with lower grade 8 scores showed a slight decrease in college enrollment from FY22, also a decrease relative to the FY19.

Table 11. Number of District graduates and percent enrolled in postsecondary institutions in the fall after graduation by grade 8 State Assessment Math Level

Score Range	FY23*		FY22*		FY21*		FY20*		FY19	
	Count	Pct	Count	Pct	Count	Pct	Count	Pct	Count	Pct
Level 1	1,536	34%	1,327	36%	1,574	32%	1,464	30%	1,401	48%
Level 2	1,331	45%	1,325	49%	1,492	44%	1,533	43%	1,665	56%
Level 3	2,523	56%	2,555	56%	2,614	58%	2,684	59%	2,928	65%
Level 4	2,018	70%	2,047	69%	2,093	67%	2,033	70%	2,151	75%
Level 5	2,880	83%	2,796	79%	2,622	80%	2,622	79%	2,066	82%

* Note: For FY19 to FY23 the score is the FSA Math scores. Since FY19, grade 8 FSA Math was not required; the students might take Algebra EOC or Geometry EOC. The summary is based on the highest performance level the students received.

Persistence Rate: FY16 to FY20 Cohorts

- For FY22, the District Persistence Rate was 81% which is similar to FY21, FY20 and FY18.
- Across years, the persistence rate¹¹ for District graduates enrolled in college was higher than the National persistence rate (Table 12). Even at the lowest point, FY19, the District persistence rate has decreased to 77%, which is higher than the overall National Persistence Rate (74%), but lower than the persistence rate reported by NSC for the national “Age 20 and Younger” group (79%).

Table 12. First-Year Persistence Rate for the District high school graduates enrolled in postsecondary institutions

Cohort Year	District Enrolled Count	District Persistence Rate	National Persistence Rate	National Age 20 and Younger* Persistence Rate
FY22	7,556	81%	NA	NA
FY21	7,533	81%	76%	80%
FY20	7,734	81%	75%	79%
FY19	8,617	77%	74%	79%
FY18	8,455	82%	76%	80%

* National Persistence Rate is from NSC <https://nscresearchcenter.org/persistence-retention/>

Degree Completion

- 64% of students in the FY16 to FY17 cohorts have completed a certificate, BA, AA or MA and above college degree, and 58% of the FY17 cohort have done so as well. The total for those FY16 and FY17 graduates who completed a certificate, BA, AA or MA degree within six years was higher (64% for both FY16 and FY17) (Table 13) than the National completion rate¹² (62% for both FY16 and FY17).
- The Bachelor’s degree was the most common highest degree completed (43% for FY16 and 42% for FY17). While 38% of FY18 cohort students have completed a Bachelor’s degree, this percentage is expected to increase with time.

¹¹ Persistence rate is the percentage of students who return to college at any institution for their second year.

¹² The National degree completion calculation excludes the students who dual enrolled while in high school <https://nscresearchcenter.org/completing-college/>

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- For the FY18 cohort, about 53% have completed AA or BA degree by the end of year 2023 (Table 13).
- In total, for the FY16 and FY17 cohorts, 6% - 7% graduates received at least one certificate or other diploma, about 46%-47% of graduates received at least one bachelor's degree, and 26% completed at least one associate degree (Table 14).

Table 13. Count FY16 to FY19 for the District high school graduates enrolled in postsecondary institutions and degree completion rate

Cohort Year	Count	Percent for MA, BA or AA Degree or Other	Percent for Highest Degree with Other	Percent for Highest Degree with AA	Percent for Highest Degree with BA	Percent for Highest Degree with MA and Above	National Degree Completion Rate for MA, BA or AA or Certificate
FY19	8,613	47%	2%	15%	29%	1%	NA
FY18	8,458	58%	2%	15%	38%	3%	NA
FY17	8,183	64%	2%	15%	42%	4%	62%
FY16	7,524	64%	2%	15%	43%	5%	62%

Note: NA denotes "not available". With any of the Degrees,

- Other - Received Certificate or other Diploma as the Highest Degree
- AA - Received Associate's Degree as the Highest Degree
- BA - Received Bachelor's Degree as the Highest Degree
- MA and Above - Received Master's Degree and above as the Highest Degree
- FY16 and FY17 are six - year degree completion; other are the completion by the end of 2022

Table 14. Count FY16 to FY19 for the District high school graduates enrolled in postsecondary institutions and all degree completion rate

Cohort Year	Count	Percent for Completed Degree with Other	Percent for Completed Degree with AA	Percent for Completed Degree with BA	Percent for Highest Degree with MA and Above
FY19	8,613	4%	19%	29%	1%
FY18	8,458	5%	23%	41%	3%
FY17	8,183	6%	26%	46%	4%
FY16	7,464	7%	26%	47%	5%

Note: NA denotes "not available". With any of the Degrees,

- Other - Received Certificate or other Diploma
- AA - Received Associate's Degree
- BA - Received Bachelor's Degree
- MA and Above - Received Master's Degree and above
- FY16 and FY17 are six - year degree completion; other are the completion by the end of 2022

SUMMARY

In summary, the percentage of District FY23 graduates who enrolled in postsecondary institutions in the fall after graduation is similar to FY22, but still considerably lower than FY19. The decrease in enrollment rate differed across student groups and academic achievement. The enrollment gaps between White and Black, and White and Hispanic students in FY23 increased compared to FY22 and FY19. Students who scored lower on the SAT or grade 8 FSA showed an increase from FY20, while higher-achieving students remained stable across years in postsecondary enrollment.

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The FY22 Persistence Rates were similar between FY21 and FY20, showing improvement from FY19. From FY18 to FY19, the Persistence Rate for District graduates enrolled in college was higher than the National Persistence Rate. FY16 and FY17 graduates who completed a degree in six years was higher than the National completion rate.

NEXT STEPS

Overall, for FY23 District graduates, the postsecondary enrollment was stable from FY22, but still dropped about 4 percentage points from FY19 (64% for FY19, 59% for FY22, and 59% for FY23) due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. This impact was also reflected for each high school. Additionally, as noted above, there are differences in enrollment and persistence rates related to the high school that students attended.

The District High School Graduates' College Matriculation [Dashboard](#) provides summaries of college enrollment, persistence rates and degree completion by District high schools.¹³ Comparison to the District schools and National Benchmarks are also included. With this in mind, and the information provided in the summary and dashboard, staff are urged to reflect on the following questions:

1. How does college enrollment compare to the prior year? The last five years? What trends do you see? How do they compare to the National Benchmarks?
2. How does college persistent rate compare to the prior year? The last five years? What trends do you see? How do they compare to the National Benchmarks?
3. How does college completion rate compare to the District overall and National Benchmarks?
4. Do high school graduates meeting college readiness benchmarks enroll in college?
5. What are we doing to monitor students beginning in grade 9 and tracking them to college enrollment?
6. How can we better support students who are impacted by COVID-19 and help them to prepare for enrollment, persistence, and success in a postsecondary environment?

If you have questions about these results, please contact Dr. Paul Houchens, Director of Research, Evaluation, and Assessment at 561-434-8780 or Dr. Adam Miller, Chief of Performance Accountability at 561-434-8851.

MJB/JW/AM/PH/RC/JH:wI

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

¹³ Navigation to the dashboard from the District Webpage: The School District of Palm Beach County - > About Us - > Reports and Publications - > Tests/Survey Reports - > District Outcomes -> College Matriculation