



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

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

January 10, 2025

TO: School Board Members

THROUGH: Michael J. Burke, Superintendent

FROM: Jamie Wyatt, Chief of Staff
Adam Miller, Chief of Performance Accountability

SUBJECT: **FY24 FEDERAL HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATES**

On January 9, the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) released high school graduation rates for the State of Florida and the School District of Palm Beach County. The FY24 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 and FY21 seniors ([Emergency Order No. 2021-EO-02](#)) who had yet to meet those requirements. This fact should be kept in mind when examining longitudinal trends.

Summary of Results

In FY24, the District's overall graduation rate was 92.1%. The District's overall graduation rate continues to exceed the state average and the six other large urban school districts in Florida. When comparing FY24 to FY20, the District's graduation rates increased overall and for each subgroup.

From FY23 to FY24, the District graduation rate:

- Increased from 90.5% to 92.1% (+1.6) overall and from 94.1% to 95.9% (+1.8) for District-operated schools.
- Increased for Black students by 2.3, for Hispanic students by 1.9, for White students by 1.1, for English Language Learners (ELL) by 7.3, for Free or Reduced-Price Lunch (FRL) students by 2.8, and for Students with Disabilities (SWD) by 1.3 percentage points.

During the five years from FY20 to FY24, the District graduation rate:

- Increased by 1.9 percentage points from 90.2% to 92.1%.
- Increased for Hispanic students by 2.6, for White students by 2.5, for ELL students by 3.2, for FRL students by 3.9, for SWD students by 5.0 percentage points, and remained similar for Black students.

The attached tables provide five-year (FY20-FY24) 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

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

schools. Tables 4 to 6 report graduation rates for District-operated high schools, Charter high schools, and Alternative schools, respectively. Notably for District-operated schools:

- The graduation rates for all 24 (100%) of the District-operated high schools exceeded 90%. A graduation rate is not yet computed for Dr. Joaquín García High School.
- Eight high schools had graduation rates of 99% or higher: Alexander W. Dreyfoos (99.7%), Lake Worth (99.0%), Olympic Heights (100%), Spanish River (100%), Suncoast (100%), Village Academy (100%), Wellington (99.4%), and West Boca Raton High (99.1%).
- Seven high schools increased their graduation rates by 2 or more percentage points from FY23. Lake Worth showed the largest single year change with an 11.2 percentage point increase, followed by Palm Beach Lakes with a 6.6 percentage point increase.
- Eleven high schools showed a positive **five-year** change in excess of 1 percentage point. Lake Worth showed the largest five-year change with a 7.9 percentage point increase followed by Seminole Ridge with a 6.3 percentage point increase.
- Of the District Alternative and ESE Centers, three improved their graduation rates from FY23 to FY24: Crossroads Academy increased 31.6, Riviera Beach Prep increased 18.9, and Royal Palm School increased 17.4 percentage points.
- Royal Palm School and Palm Beach Virtual had a graduation rate of 100%.

Next Steps for Schools:

High school principals will be asked to use this Executive Summary to analyze their graduation data by reflecting on the questions below:

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?

If you have questions about graduation rates, please contact Dr. Adam Miller, Chief of Performance Accountability, at 561-434-8851. For information regarding District initiatives to increase graduation rates, please contact Jamie Wyatt, Chief of Staff, at 561-969-5829. For questions regarding specific schools, contact the appropriate Regional/Instructional Superintendent.

MJB/JW/AM/PH/RC:wI

Attachments

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

Table 1. FY20-FY24 Federal Graduation Rates for Florida and Large Urban Districts

	FY20*	FY21*	FY22	FY23	FY24	1-Year Change	5-Year Change
Florida	90.0	90.1	87.3	88.0	89.7	1.7	-0.3
Palm Beach	90.2	91.0	89.0	90.5	92.1	1.6	1.9
Broward	89.4	89.1	87.2	88.7	89.0	0.3	-0.4
Dade	89.6	90.1	88.2	90.3	91.8	1.5	2.2
Duval	90.2	89.6	85.6	87.2	90.9	3.7	0.7
Hillsborough	88.8	89.2	87.9	86.2	88.0	1.8	-0.8
Orange	90.4	90.4	87.0	89.1	89.3	0.2	-1.1
Pinellas	91.5	92.0	88.1	87.7	91.5	3.8	0.0

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

Table 2. FY20-FY24 Federal Graduation Rates for Florida and District by Student Subgroup

	Subgroup	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	1-Year Change	5-Year Change
Florida	Black	86.6	87.1	82.0	83.2	85.3	2.1	-1.3
	Hispanic	89.5	89.4	85.9	86.8	89.0	2.2	-0.5
	White	91.7	91.8	90.6	91.0	92.4	1.4	0.7
	ELL	85.7	86.1	73.0	76.1	80.7	4.6	-5.0
	FRL	86.9	87.2	83.1	83.8	86.2	2.4	-0.7
	SWD	82.6	82.3	83.5	85.5	86.8	1.3	4.2
Palm Beach	Black	88.6	88.8	83.8	86.7	89.0	2.3	0.4
	Hispanic	87.6	88.6	86.5	88.4	90.2	1.8	2.6
	White	94.3	94.7	95.1	95.7	96.8	1.1	2.5
	ELL	80.2	82.7	69.3	76.1	83.4	7.3	3.2
	FRL	87.4	88.0	84.9	86.6	89.4	2.8	2.0
	SWD	85.1	83.7	86.3	88.8	90.1	1.3	5.0

Table 3. FY20-FY24 Federal Graduation Rates for District Operated and Charter Schools*

	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	1-Year Change	5-Year Change
District Operated Schools	94.4	95.9	92.8	94.1	95.9	1.8	1.5
Charter Schools	57.1	57.8	61.1	67.1	66.3	-0.8	9.2

* Estimated from School level Graduation Data

Table 4. FY20-FY24 Federal Graduation Rates for District Operated High Schools

Region	School#	School	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	1-Year Change	5-Year Change
C	1561	DR. JOAQUÍN GARCÍA HIGH SCHOOL					NR		
C	0581	FOREST HILL COMMUNITY HIGH	90.1	95.0	85.9	91.8	92.7	0.9	2.6
C	1361	JOHN I. LEONARD HIGH	93.8	93.5	91.0	93.5	96.4	2.9	2.6
C	0691	LAKE WORTH HIGH	91.1	95.4	90.7	87.8	99.0	11.2	7.9
C	2631	PALM BEACH CENTRAL HIGH	97.6	96.5	95.4	94.4	97.0	2.6	-0.6
C	2331	ROYAL PALM BEACH HIGH	93.8	95.0	91.8	94.5	96.0	1.5	2.2
C	2191	WELLINGTON HIGH	94.9	97.8	97.8	97.9	99.4	1.5	4.5
G	2301	GLADES CENTRAL HIGH	94.2	87.5	90.8	97.2	98.0	0.8	3.8
G	1771	PAHOKEE MIDDLE-SENIOR HIGH	98.3	99.0	100.0	98.9	98.0	-0.9	-0.3
N	0395	ALEXANDER W DREYFOOS JR HIGH	100.0	99.4	99.4	99.7	99.7	0.0	-0.3
N	0081	JUPITER HIGH	94.6	95.8	95.1	95.4	97.2	1.8	2.6
N	1371	PALM BEACH GARDENS HIGH	96.7	94.6	90.0	92.4	93.6	1.2	-3.1
N	1851	PALM BEACH LAKES HIGH	87.8	91.6	79.7	84.1	90.7	6.6	2.9
N	3861	SEMINOLE RIDGE COMM. HIGH	91.6	97.3	96.0	98.1	97.9	-0.2	6.3
N	0151	SUNCOAST COMMUNITY HIGH	99.5	100.0	99.0	99.7	100.0	0.3	0.5
N	2201	WILLIAM T. DWYER HIGH	91.9	98.3	96.8	93.8	96.3	2.5	4.4
S	0862	ATLANTIC HIGH	96.8	94.9	88.6	91.1	92.3	1.2	-4.5
S	0961	BOCA RATON COMMUNITY HIGH	98.0	98.7	96.5	96.8	95.7	-1.1	-2.3
S	2361	BOYNTON BEACH COMM. HIGH	88.4	90.0	80.7	88.1	90.7	2.6	2.3
S	2181	OLYMPIC HEIGHTS COMM. HIGH	99.6	99.6	100.0	99.8	100.0	0.2	0.4
S	2001	PARK VISTA COMMUNITY HIGH	98.7	98.2	97.9	98.3	98.4	0.1	-0.3
S	1611	SANTALUCES COMMUNITY HIGH	95.8	97.6	92.1	92.8	96.3	3.5	0.5
S	1681	SPANISH RIVER COMM. HIGH	100.0	99.8	100.0	99.7	100.0	0.3	0.0
S	2811	VILLAGE ACADEMY CENTER	100.0	97.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0
S	3251	WEST BOCA RATON HIGH	98.1	98.0	98.2	99.0	99.1	0.1	1.0

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

Table 5. FY20-FY24 Federal Graduation Rates for District Charter Schools

Region	School #	School	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	1-Year Change	5-Year Change
CH	3400	BELIEVERS ACADEMY	47.8	30.4	50.0	45.0	30.0	-15.0	-17.8
CH	2521	ED VENTURE CHARTER	33.3	33.3	28.0	33.3	34.8	1.5	1.5
CH	3398	EVERGLADES PREP. ACADEMY	86.4	93.5	81.5	67.3	71.4	4.1	-15.0
CH	4081	FLORIDA FUTURES ACADEMY- NORTH	3.1	0.0	5.4	0.0	5.1	5.1	2.0
CH	3396	G-STAR	94.7	92.5	94.1	91.7	94.3	2.6	-0.4
CH	1461	INLET GROVE COMMUNITY HIGH	98.2	97.4	95.4	99.5	99.3	-0.2	1.1
CH	3083	LEARNING ACADEMY ELS CENTER	61.5	66.7	88.2	94.1	86.7	-7.4	25.2
CH	3971	MAVERICKS HS AT PALM SPRINGS	6.3	11.0	54.7	59.4	48.5	-10.9	42.2
CH	3924	PALM BEACH MARITIME ACADEMY	100.0	100.0	89.7	92.9	87.5	-5.4	-12.5
CH	2941	PALM BEACH SCHOOL FOR AUTISM	100.0	100.0	92.3	NR	82.1		-17.9
CH	3401	QUANTUM HIGH	22.6	21.3	8.3	15.1	22.0	6.9	-0.6
CH	3391	SEAGULL ACADEMY	NR	40.0	NR	NR	NR		
CH	4103	SLAM BOCA			100.0	89.4	100.0	10.6	
CH	4111	SLAM HIGH SCHOOL PALM BEACH			53.5	74.4	92.9	18.5	
CH	4013	SOMERSET ACADEMY CANYONS HIGH	95.0	98.6	96.7	97.8	97.9	0.1	2.9
CH	1571	SOUTH TECH ACADEMY	96.3	96.5	96.9	97.3	98.5	1.2	2.2
CH	3386	TOUSSAINT L'OUVERTURE HIGH	13.5	10.0	0.0	NR	NR		
CH	3421	WORTHINGTON HIGH	12.5	27.5	9.4	22.3	34.1	11.8	21.6

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

Table 6. FY20-FY24 Federal Graduation Rates for District Alternative Schools

Region	School #	School	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	1-Year Change	5-Year Change
AL	3423	ACCELERATION ACADEMY	0.0	NR	NR	NR	NR		
AL	3039	ALT. PROGRAM CENTRAL	10.0	NR	25.0	NR	NR		
AL	4101	CATAPULT ACADEMY	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR		
AL	3101	CROSSROADS ACADEMY	42.9	81.8	52.5	61.0	92.6	31.6	49.7
AL	3024	HIGHRIDGE FAMILY CENTER	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR		
AL	3355	RIVIERA BEACH PREP & ACHIEVE	70.5	64.0	53.3	62.5	81.4	18.9	10.9
AL	3046	SOUTH INTENSIVE TRANSITION	25.0	30.8	25.0	NR	NR		
AL	0842	TURNING POINTS ACADEMY	39.1	0.0	15.4	43.8	33.3	-10.5	-5.8
DJ	3010	PACE CENTER FOR GIRLS	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR		
DJ	3002	PALM BEACH COUNTY JAIL	NR	NR	37.5	52.6	61.1	8.5	
DJ	3354	PB JUVENILE CORRECTIONAL	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR		
DJ	3006	PB REGIONAL DETENTION CNTR	NR	NR	NR	NR	0.0		
ES	2411	INDIAN RIDGE	NR	NR	71.4	NR	80.0		
ES	1801	ROYAL PALM	70.6	87.5	100.0	82.6	100.0	17.4	29.4
VS	7004	PALM BEACH VIRTUAL	98.1	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	0.0	1.9
VS	7001	EDGENUITY – GRADES KG-12					100.0		
VS	7001	GRADUATION ALLIANCE - GRADES 09-12					7.0		

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. Florida began using the Federal Graduation Rate in FY12.

	Cohort Adjustments (Students Removed from the Denominator)	Graduates (On-Time Graduates from the Denominator)	Non-Graduates (All Non-Graduates Remaining in the Denominator)
Federal Uniform Rate (Used for school years 2011-12 and beyond)	Transfers to: - Other public or private high schools (not including DJJs) - Home-education programs Deceased students	- Standard diploma recipients	- 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