

Dr. Marta Pérez, Board Member

SUBJECT: HISTORICAL FCAT DATA

**COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT**

**LINK TO STRATEGIC
FRAMEWORK: STUDENT, PARENT, AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

The FCAT began in 1998 as part of Florida's overall plan to increase student achievement by implementing higher standards. When in full implementation, the FCAT was administered to students in grades 3-11 and consisted of criterion-referenced assessments in mathematics, reading, science, and writing, which measured student progress toward meeting the Sunshine State Standards (SSS) benchmarks. During the 2010-11 school year, Florida began the transition from the FCAT to the FCAT 2.0 and Florida End-of-Course (EOC) Assessments. Selected grades and subjects will continue to participate in FCAT assessments until the final transition is complete.

Proponents of the FCAT feel that the test fosters accountability in teaching and learning. Opponents express dissatisfaction with the time necessary to teach test taking skills and the stress placed on students prior to and during the administration.

Most universities use other criteria to assess college readiness when selecting students to look at the past fourteen years to see if the additional efforts and preparation yielded a beneficial effect on students overall. The School Board should review this data in order to support policies which give our students maximum educational benefits.

How this information is used by our district to drive what curriculum is ultimately presented to our students at the classroom level is an intricate process that has become more sophisticated through the years since the inception of the FCAT.

ACTION PROPOSED BY

DR. MARTA PÉREZ: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, direct the Superintendent to conduct a workshop in order to engage in a discussion on how data drives what eventually happens in our schools, how instructional tools impact student learning and the data we receive, and how the data in turn is used to further enhance the curriculum.