

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
March 21, 2006

SUBJECT: Palm Beach County School Board's Charter School District status report

1) Strategies for secondary student performance and subgroup participation

- **Upper level Mathematics courses**
Most recent data* show that students who traditionally had not taken higher math classes generally made the greatest gains.

Algebra in Grade 8 is now the standard (% proficient progress from 2004 to 2005: +9% Black; +1.9% White; +7.2% Hispanic; +9.2% ESE; -5.5% LEP)

All student subgroups showed increase in enrollment in upper level math classes (enrollment increases from 2004 to 2005: +2.8% Black; +2.1% White; +2.7% Hispanic; +.6% ESE; +1.8% LEP)
- **Upper level Science courses**
Grades 9-12 enrollment in upper level science courses has been inconsistent over last 3 years but was stable from 2004 to 2005. (-.2% Black; -1.3% White; -.1% Hispanic; +.3% ESE; +.4% LEP)
Strategies are in place to accelerate an increase among all groups.

Grades in these classes remain stable (93% of all students received grade C or better)
- **Advanced Placement (AP) courses**
Percent of students taking at least one AP class continues to increase in FY2005 (31% of all students; 10.4% Black; 41.5% White; 27.5% Hispanic; 1.5% ESE; 6% LEP)

Almost 3000 additional AP exams were taken in FY2005 than in 2004 (an increase of 30%); however the total percent of students passing (52.8%) dropped by 4% and every subgroup's passing rate decreased.
- **SAT scores**
Percent of seniors taking SAT is stable as is percent scoring 1000 or higher (from 2004 to 2005: +2.5% Black; +2% White; +4.9% Hispanic; +.6% ESE; +7% LEP)

Strategies are being implemented to increase participation. PSAT is being provided to all 10th graders.
- **Graduation rates**
Percent of students graduating has increased significantly; greatest increase among ESE students (from 2004 to 2005: +4.5% Black; +3.9% White; +4.4% Hispanic; +9% ESE; -3.4% LEP)

Research-based strategies are in place to increase graduation monitoring to provide earlier interventions.

2) Progress monitoring and support to charter schools

Monthly charter school principals' curriculum meetings are held (topics have included classroom walk-throughs, internal audits, grant updates)

Monthly District principals' meetings and breakout sessions

Distribution of all handouts and information sent districtwide to all principals

District staff assist with mid-year and end-of-year reviews (includes Student Services, ESE, ESOL, Curriculum and Instruction, Assessment, Personnel, Title 1, Food Services, Transportation, Finance, Facilities)

District diagnostic assessments are supplied 3 times a year. Scoring and data interpretation are provided by the District.

9 common assessments (in both Reading and Math) and Palm Beach Writes are available for charter school use.

Math and Reading Coaches provided for both "F" charter schools

Professional development opportunities are provided. Upon request, site-specific training and support are provided.

CONCERNS:

The most instances of decreases in student performance occur in the LEP subgroup (in the areas of ETS Algebra scores (-5.5% proficiency), AP course enrollment -.8 % (the only subgroup to decrease), and graduation rate down -3.4%).

The total enrollments in upper level science and mathematics courses indicate a wide range across subgroups (from 44% of White students to 23% Hispanic to 16% Black to 4% LEP to 3% of ESE students in Science).

* Source of data: Status Report from the School Board of Palm Beach County (February 1, 2006) Supporting documentation and data charts on select Key Results are in the Palm Beach Academic Business Plan.