

2009 School Grades and Adequate Yearly Progress Fact Sheet

General

- Each year, public schools in Florida receive a school grade of “A,” “B,” “C,” “D” or “F” based primarily upon achievement data from the FCAT.
- School grades communicate to the public how well a school is performing based on state standards.
- School grades are calculated by determining annual learning gains of each student toward achievement of Sunshine State Standards, meeting proficiency standards and reviewing the progress of the lowest quartile of students.
- School grades were established in 1999.

2009 School Grades Results

- Of Florida's 2,954 graded public schools earning "A" through "F" grades this year:
 - 1,822 earned an "A," an increase of 237 schools compared to last year.
 - 495 earned a "B," a decrease of 47 schools compared to last year.
 - 420 earned a "C," a decrease of 145 schools compared to last year.
 - 173 earned a "D," an increase of 18 schools compared to last year.
 - 44 earned an "F," a decrease of 1 school compared to last year.
- The total number of schools receiving either an “A” or “B” grade this year is 2,317, the largest number of schools to be considered high performing since the inception of school grades in 1999 (previous high was 2,127 last year).
- The number of schools receiving either a “D” or “F” grade this year increased to 217, up from 200 in 2008.

2009 School Grades by School Type

- Of the 1,752 elementary schools earning a grade this year, 1,262 earned an “A,” 262 earned a “B,” 183 earned a “C,” 32 earned a “D” and 13 earned an “F.”
- Of the 568 middle schools earning a grade this year, 362 earned an “A,” 90 earned a “B,” 99 earned a “C,” 14 earned a “D” and 3 earned an “F.”
- Of the 408 high schools earning a grade this year, 68 earned an “A,” 98 earned a “B,” 108 earned a “C,” 116 earned a “D” and 18 earned an “F.”
- Of the 226 combination schools (schools that combine grade levels across multiple school types) earning a grade this year, 130 earned an “A,” 45 earned a “B,” 30 earned a “C,” 11 earned a “D” and 10 earned an “F.”

School Recognition

- Schools that receive an "A" or improve at least one performance grade from the previous year are eligible to earn \$75 per student in school recognition funds.
- A total of 2,043 schools either earned an “A” or improved a letter grade from 2008, making them eligible for school recognition funds.

- This is the largest number of schools to be eligible for school recognition funds since the inception of school grades.

Low Performing Schools

- Of last year's 45 "F" graded schools, six improved to an "A," three improved to a "B," six improved to a "C," 11 improved to a "D," seven remained an "F," five schools closed, three were alternative schools that opted for a School Improvement Rating, and four had insufficient data to calculate a school grade.
- Of last year's 23 repeating "F" schools, two improved to an "A," one improved to a "B," two improved to a "C," eight improved to a "D," six remained an "F," one earned a School Improvement Rating of "Maintaining," and three schools closed.
- Of the 19 repeating "F" schools this year, three are elementary schools, one is a middle school, 10 are high schools and five are combination schools.

Adequate Yearly Progress

- Required as part of the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act, Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) measures schools based on a pass/fail system.
- To achieve AYP, schools must meet proficiency benchmarks in 39 separate criteria. If a school fails to meet one of the 39 criteria it does not make AYP.
- AYP is separate from Florida's school grading system which measures schools based on degrees of performance.
- This year, the AYP benchmarks increased significantly from last year.
 - The reading target increased seven percentage points, from 59 percent to 65 percent.
 - The mathematics target also increased six percentage points, from 62 percent to 68 percent.
- This year, 3,354 schools were included in Florida's AYP calculation with 785 schools making AYP and 2,569 not making AYP.
- Not making AYP does not mean that a school is failing. It means that the school has not met the requirements of all 39 criteria.
- Of Florida's 2,317 schools that received an "A" or "B" school grade this year, 1,868 of them met 80 percent or more of AYP criteria.
- Beginning last year Florida initiated its new school support program, Differentiated Accountability, which provides more flexibility for schools in the type of corrective actions they need to implement.
- Through the program, schools that consecutively fail to make AYP will be placed into three main improvement levels based on the school's letter grade, percentage of AYP requirements met, and the number of years it has not made AYP.
- For more information regarding Florida's Differentiated Accountability program, visit <http://schoolgrades.fldoe.org/pdf/0809/DifferentiatedAccountabilityFactSheet.pdf>.

New High School Grading Standards

- In 2008, the Legislature passed Senate Bill 1908, which, in part, revises the high school grading formula beginning in 2009-10.
- As indicated by the legislation, 50 percent of a school's grade will be based on the existing FCAT-related factors, and the other half will be based on factors that include:
 - A school's high school graduation rate.
 - The performance and participation of students in Advanced Placement courses, International Baccalaureate courses, dual enrollment courses, Advanced International Certificate of Education courses, and the achievement of industry certification in a career and professional academy (as valid data become available).
 - The postsecondary readiness of the students as measured by the SAT, ACT, or the common placement test.
 - The high school graduation rate of at-risk students who scored at Level 2 or lower on the grade 8 FCAT Reading and Mathematics examinations.
 - The performance of a school's students on statewide standardized end-of-course assessments approved by the Department of Education, when available.
 - The annual growth or decline in these components.
- The Department of Education is currently finalizing the new calculation method and a finished rule is expected to go before the Florida State Board of Education for approval in September.