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TO: School Board Members

FROM: Dr. Angela R. Fulton, Task Assigned 
Deputy Superintendent, Teaching and Learning

Saemone Hollingsworth  designee
Chief Academic Officer

VIA: Dr. Howard Hepburn 
Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: 2024 BENCHMARKS FOR EXCELLENT STUDENT THINKING (B.E.S.T.) WRITING RESULTS

On Monday, July 1, 2024, the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) released the 2023-2024 baseline results for the Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking (B.E.S.T.) Writing test. This is the first operational administration year of the B.E.S.T. Writing test. **B.E.S.T. Writing is not part of school or district accountability calculations for the 2023-2024 or 2024-2025 school years.** Writing scores are reported separately from Reading and do not contribute to an overall English Language Arts (ELA) score. Writing is a computer-based test for all assessed grades, and students respond to text prompts. All students enrolled in grades 4–10 participate in B.E.S.T. Writing assessments.

The following elements are reported for B.E.S.T. Writing:

- Raw Scores (out of 12 possible points) – the lowest score point in each domain is one, not zero, the lowest possible raw score is 3/12.
- Domain Scores (out of 4 possible points each) – Each domain (Purpose/Structure, Development, Language) is reported.

This memorandum summarizes the results at the State and district levels. Individual student-level results are available to each school through the Florida Reporting System (FRS). Additionally, in the coming months, parents will be able to receive writing raw scores and view the writing response through the state's Family portal via Broward's parent portal application at <https://www.browardschools.com/focus>.

B.E.S.T. Writing results highlight the percentage of Broward County Public School (BCPS) students who scored seven points or higher out of a possible 12 points:

- **Broward outperformed the state in all grades.**
- Grade 6 students in Broward outperformed the state by six percentage points.

Below is a table of B.E.S.T. Writing results by grade level for the 2023-2024 school year for Broward which includes charter schools.

SUBJECT: 2024 BENCHMARKS FOR EXCELLENT STUDENT THINKING (B.E.S.T.) WRITING RESULTS**PAGE: 2****Table 1. B.E.S.T. Writing Results for Broward, 2023-2024**

District	Grade	Mean Raw Score	Percentage Scoring 6.0 or Above	Percentage Scoring 7.0 or Above
Broward	4	6.0	76	26
Broward	5	6.7	85	36
Broward	6	6.7	87	35
Broward	7	6.2	82	24
Broward	8	6.7	88	33
Broward	9	6.7	88	33
Broward	10	6.7	86	36

State level and other large district performance is provided in Table 2 on the following pages by grade level. The data are summarized for BCPS and the four other largest school districts in the state (Hillsborough, Miami-Dade, Orange, and Palm Beach), as well as Florida overall.

Table 2. B.E.S.T. Writing Results by Districts and Grade Level, for 2023-2024

District/ State	Mean Raw Score	Grade 4		Mean Raw Score	Grade 5	
		Percentage Scoring 6.0 or Above	Percentage Scoring 7.0 or Above		Percentage Scoring 6.0 or Above	Percentage Scoring 7.0 or Above
Broward	6.0	76	26	6.7	85	36
Hillsborough	5.8	71	23	6.3	79	30
Miami-Dade	6.4	80	34	7.0	88	46
Orange	5.6	70	19	6.2	79	27
Palm Beach	6.3	77	33	7.0	86	47
Florida	5.9	74	24	6.5	82	33

District/ State	Mean Raw Score	Grade 6		Mean Raw Score	Grade 7	
		Percentage Scoring 6.0 or Above	Percentage Scoring 7.0 or Above		Percentage Scoring 6.0 or Above	Percentage Scoring 7.0 or Above
Broward	6.7	87	35	6.2	82	24
Hillsborough	6.6	84	31	6.1	77	23
Miami-Dade	6.8	88	38	6.3	85	25
Orange	6.2	80	24	5.7	73	17
Palm Beach	6.9	87	40	6.4	82	29
Florida	6.5	85	29	6.0	79	21

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District/ State	Mean Raw Score	Grade 8 Percentage Scoring 6.0 or Above	Percentage Scoring 7.0 or Above
Broward	6.7	88	33
Hillsborough	6.6	84	33
Miami-Dade	6.8	89	35
Orange	6.3	82	26
Palm Beach	7.1	89	42
Florida	6.6	86	31

District/ State	Grade 9			Grade 10		
	Mean Raw Score	Percentage Scoring 6.0 or Above	Percentage Scoring 7.0 or Above	Mean Raw Score	Percentage Scoring 6.0 or Above	Percentage Scoring 7.0 or Above
Broward	6.7	88	33	6.7	86	36
Hillsborough	6.6	86	32	6.7	86	36
Miami-Dade	6.7	88	34	6.7	86	37
Orange	6.6	85	34	6.6	82	35
Palm Beach	7.0	88	41	6.9	86	42
Florida	6.6	87	32	6.6	86	34

In addition to the district summary data, a school-level appendix is attached to this memorandum. This memorandum and the attachments can be accessed on the Educational Assessment, Analysis, and Research website at: <https://www.browardschools.com/sar>.

More information about the writing reports and responses in the FRS is available at the link: https://fsassessments.org/content/contentresources/en/Understanding%20B.E.S.T.%20Writing%20Reports%20for%20Teachers_FINAL_061824.pdf. The scoring samplers and writing rubrics can be found on the state's B.E.S.T. Writing website: <https://www.fldoe.org/accountability/assessments/k-12-student-assessment/writing.shtml>.

If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact **Richard Baum, Director of Educational Assessment, Analysis and Research** at 754-321-2500 or via email at richard.baum@browardschools.com.

HH/ARF/SH/FC/RGB:rs
Attachments