

MEMORANDUM

July 26, 2013

**TO: Board Members
Collier County Public Schools**

**FROM: Dr. Kamela Patton, Superintendent
Collier County Public Schools**

SUBJECT: SCHOOL GRADES

The Florida Department of Education (DOE) has released the 2013 school grades for elementary and middle schools across the state. High school grades will be released later in the school year as 50% of the high school grade is comprised of non-FCAT components.

As Commissioner Tony Bennett stated in a conference call earlier in July, "The school accountability system has been overly nuanced, with the number of changing variables." There have been 39 changes in three years. Bennett went on to state, "These grades are not a result of students doing worse, and rather they are indicative of maintaining the trend to higher standards as we move to Common Core."

The state did see declines in over half of all the schools. In addition, of the 67 school districts in the state, 40 districts (60%) dropped a letter grade and there are 3 'F' school districts.

The components for the calculation of school grades have changed for this past school year. One of the changes that negatively impacted schools is the state use of a 3.5 score as the criterion for FCAT writing, instead of the 3.0 score that was used last year. To remedy the school letter grades dropped statewide, the state has limited the letter grade drop to one letter grade. The decline of school grades happened despite significant improvements in performance, especially in math and science.

While the Collier County results released today by the DOE mirror those received by schools across the State of Florida, and the declines we are experiencing in Collier are parallel to those seen across the state, it provides little in the way of consolation. The results are especially disappointing in light of the fact that we have increased student achievement, particularly in math and science, yet schools are penalized by the reduction in their grade. Lower school grades are disheartening for our teachers, students, administrators, and parents/community members who work diligently every day to make sure high-quality teaching leads to increased student learning.

Notwithstanding, we appreciate the efforts of having dedicated teachers and staff members, strong community partners. We are grateful for everyone's collective work. We are confident that if the school grading formula that was used last year would have remained in effect for this year, most of our schools' grades would either remain the same as last year or improved. In addition, the District grade would have remained an 'A', and the total points received would have increased.

Our charge is to provide a high-quality education that prepares our students for graduation, a career, or college. Making sure our students receive a high-quality relevant education so they have the skills and training they need to succeed is the key and remains our steadfast focus.

Overall, a total of 39 schools in Collier County (excluding high schools and charter schools) were graded by the State. Of the schools graded in FY13, 13 schools were graded an 'A', 10 schools were graded a 'B', 7 schools were graded a 'C', 7 schools were graded a 'D', and 2 schools were graded an 'F'. The distribution of grades is shown in the tables 1, 2a, and 2b.

Table 1

Grade	FY12		FY13	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
A	23	59%	13	33%
B	4	10%	10	26%
C	9	23%	7	18%
D	3	8%	7	18%
F	0	0%	2	5%
Total	39		39	

*Excluding high schools and charter schools

Table 2a

Schools	2012	2013
Avalon	C	C
Big Cypress	A	B
Calusa Park	A	B
Corkscrew	B	C
Eden Park	D	F
Estates	A	B
Golden Gate	C	D
Golden Terrace	C	D
Highlands	C	D
Lake Park	A	A
Lake Trafford	D	D
Laurel Oak	A	A
Lely	A	B
Manatee	A	B
Mike Davis	A	B
Naples Park	A	B
Osceola	A	A
Palmetto	A	B
Parkside	D	F
Pelican Marsh	A	A
Pinecrest	C	D
Poinciana	A	B
Sabal Palm	C	D
Sea Gate	A	A
Shadowlawn	B	C
Tommie Barfield	A	A
Veterans Memorial	A	A
Village Oaks	C	D
Vineyards	A	A
District	A	B

Table 2b

Schools	2012	2013
Corkscrew Middle	A	A
Cypress Palm Middle	B	C
East Naples Middle	A	B
Golden Gate Middle	B	C
Gulfview Middle	A	A
Immokalee Middle	C	C
Manatee Middle	C	C
North Naples Middle	A	A
Oakridge Middle	A	A
Pine Ridge Middle	A	A

Attachments

cc: Superintendent's Cabinet
All Principals