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NEWS RELEASE – “COLLIER DISTRICT LEARNS OF REVISED GRADES”

Collier County Public Schools’ Superintendent Dr. Kamela Patton received word from the Florida Department of Education (DOE) over the weekend regarding preliminary revisions in the grades assigned to two Collier County elementary schools and the school district itself.

Grades for Lely Elementary School and Poinciana Elementary School are being changed from B to A by the DOE as a part of what they refer to as their “continuous review process.” According to the DOE, the impact of these preliminary revisions to the initial grades for 213 schools statewide, assigned on July 11, 2012, will result in changes to nine initial school district grades including Collier County’s. As a result, Collier’s district grade will increase from a B to an A. With the revisions, eleven Collier schools actually increased their grades.

According to a news release from the DOE, “These changes were identified during the review process that occurs between the time initial school grades are released and final school grades are published after an appeals process has been completed. This phase of the school grading process, which involves district validation, is important because it provides transparency and helps ensure that final grades are correct.”

Dr. Kamela Patton stresses that “we are especially appreciative and proud of students, staff, and parents at Lely and Poinciana. We congratulate them on their success and thank them for their hard work. We are also very pleased to learn that our district is an A school district.”

Per the district’s understanding from the DOE, final school and district grades will be released in September.

MEMORANDUM

July 11, 2012

TO: Dr. Kamela Patton, Superintendent
Collier County Public Schools

FROM: Beth Thompson, Chief Instructional Officer
Collier County Public Schools

SUBJECT: SCHOOL GRADES

The Florida Department of Education has released the 2012 school grades for elementary and middle schools across the state. High school grades will be released later in the school year.

We are encouraged by the increase in the percentage of our schools scoring an “A”. Statewide the percentage of “A’s” from 2011 to 2012 dropped 10% from 58% to 48%. In Collier County the percentage of schools receiving “A’s” increased 21% from 38% to 59%. In 2011 Collier had 20% fewer “A’s” than the state while this year Collier has 11% more “A’s” than the state. This is an outstanding accomplishment, particularly in a year when accountability standards were increased.

Overall, a total of 39 schools in Collier County (excluding high schools and charter schools) were graded by the State. Of the schools graded both in FY11 and FY12, 23 schools received an ‘A’ in FY12 compared to 15 schools in FY11. Twenty-seven schools, out of 39, were graded “A” or “B”. Nine schools were graded “C” and three schools received a “D” grade. There are no ‘F’ schools this year. The distribution of the grades is shown in Table 1:

Table 1

Grade	FY11		FY12		Change Count
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	
A	15	38%	23	59%	8
B	12	31%	4	10%	-8
C	7	18%	9	23%	2
D	5	13%	3	8%	-2
F	0	0%	0	0%	0
Total	39		39		

*Excluding high schools and charter schools

Table 2 below shows the school grades for the elementary schools. Of the 29 elementary schools with grades, 9 schools improved one grade, Manatee and Lely Elementary increased by two letter grades, 8 schools improved to an A grade, one school dropped to a D, and there was no F school. 17 schools maintained the same letter grade.

Table 2

Grade	FY11		FY12		Change Count
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	
A	9	31%	17	59%	8
B	8	28%	2	7%	-6
C	7	24%	7	24%	0
D	5	17%	3	10%	-2
F	0	0%	0	0%	0
Total	29		29		

Table 3 below shows the school grades for the middle schools. Of the 10 middle schools with grades, 8 schools maintained the letter grade from the previous year and 2 schools dropped one letter grade.

Table 3

Grade	FY11		FY12		Change Count
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	
A	6	60%	6	60%	0
B	4	40%	2	20%	-2
C	0	0%	2	20%	2
D	0	0%	0	0%	0
F	0	0%	0	0%	0
Total	10		10		

Tables 4a and 4b show the elementary and middle school grades for FY11 and FY12. Table 5 shows a comparison between Collier County and the state. Compared to last year, Collier increased in the number of "A" schools while the State dropped.

The results released today indicate three of our schools have lower grades than they did last year. This does not mean our students are not doing as well as they did last year. The Department of Education (DOE) expected the combination of changes to cause a drop in some schools' grades. We know the increased expectations will better prepare our students for the rigor of the Common Core State Standards and the aligned assessment. The DOE reminds us that each time Florida's school grading system has increased expectations student performance has improved over the course of time. However, lower school grades are disheartening as our teachers, students, administrators, and parents/community members work diligently every day to make sure high-quality teaching leads to increased student learning.

High school grades will be released later in the school year. Fifty percent of the high school grade is comprised of non-FCAT components which are not yet released by the State. These components include graduation rate of all students and those identified as academically at risk, participation and performance of students in accelerated coursework, and postsecondary readiness of students.

The components for the calculation of school grades have changed somewhat for this past school year. The changes for elementary and middle schools are as follows:

- Uses new rigorous achievement level cut scores for FCAT 2.0 Reading and Mathematics and Algebra 1;
- Incorporates students with disabilities in Reading, Mathematics, Writing, and Science performance components in the same way as other students;
- Includes English Language Learners in Reading, Mathematics, Writing, and Science performance components like other students after only being in school one year and one day (instead of two years as previously required);
- Provides additional expectations for learning gains for students in levels 1 and 2 with additional weighting for those who exceed the expectations;
- Increases the weighting of learning gains for students moving into levels 4 and 5 from lower levels;
- Resets the Writing standards to 3.0;
- Allows the use of the Algebra 1 End-of-Course assessment scores in the middle school in lieu of the FCAT 2.0 scores;
- Adds a new component of acceleration for middle school grades which would include participation and performance on high-school level End-of-Course assessments.

These changes have raised the bar and we do embrace setting high, yet realistic standards.

Attachments

cc: Superintendent's Cabinet
All Principals

Table 4a. 2011-2012 School Grades by Elementary School

Schools	2011	2012
Avalon	C	C
Big Cypress	A	A
Calusa Park	B	A
Corkscrew	B	B
Eden Park	C	D
Estates	B	A
Golden Gate	D	C
Golden Terrace	D	C
Highlands	C	C
Lake Park	B	A
Lake Trafford	D	D
Laurel Oak	A	A
Lely	C	A
Manatee	C	A
Mike Davis	A	A
Naples Park	A	A
Osceola	B	A
Palmetto	B	A
Parkside	D	D
Pelican Marsh	A	A
Pinecrest	D	C
Poinciana	B	A
Sabal Palm	C	C
Sea Gate	A	A
Shadowlawn	B	B
Tommie Barfield	A	A
Veterans Memorial	A	A
Village Oaks	C	C
Vineyards	A	A

Table 4b. 2011-2012 School Grades by Middle School

Schools	2011	2012
Corkscrew	A	A
Cypress Palm	B	B
East Naples	A	A
Golden Gate	B	B
Gulfview	A	A
Immokalee	B	C
Manatee	B	C
North Naples	A	A
Oakridge	A	A
Pine Ridge	A	A

Table 5. Collier Compared to the State

FY12	Collier		State	
Grade	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
A	23	59%	1240	48%
B	4	10%	606	23%
C	9	23%	490	19%
D	3	8%	210	8%
F	0	0%	40	2%
Total	39		2586	

FY11	Collier		State	
Grade	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
A	15	38%	1481	58%
B	12	31%	457	18%
C	7	18%	459	18%
D	5	13%	113	4%
F	0	0%	29	1%
Total	39		2539	