

**Florida Department of Education
1996-97 School Accountability Report Guide Sheet**

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The Vital Signs and Performance Status Report are now combined into the new School Accountability Report. The School Accountability Report is designed to close the loop on reform and accountability, to group schools with similar performance characteristics, to identify critically low schools, to stimulate academic improvement and to summarize information about school achievement, learning environment and student characteristics.

DISTRICT SCHOOL

The unit of reporting is each elementary, middle and high school within the district. Schools that have students in more than one category may have multiple reports.

Critically Low Scores

Scores that fall below the state's minimum performance criteria (as shown below) are coded with a trailing "c."

Group

School Level	Reading Comprehension (above 50th national percentile)	Math Concepts/Applications (above 50th national percentile)	Florida Writes! ("3" and above)	HSCT Communications	HSCT Math
Elementary	33%	33%	33%	N/A	N/A
Middle	40%	40%	50%	N/A	N/A
High	N/A	N/A	67% passing	85% passing	80% passing

Group 1: Critically Low (ALL 6 scores below minimum)

Group 3: 1, 2 or 3 Critically Low Scores

Group 2: 4 or 5 Critically Low Scores

Group 4: No Critically Low Scores

Year

This report contains separate entries for the 1996-97 and 1995-96 school years. Changes in achievement, process or school characteristics can be seen by comparing data from the two years.

State Medians

School performance is shown relative to state medians (the midpoint in a range of values) for all schools in a particular category (elementary, middle or high). State medians for 1997 and 1996 are shown above each column of data in the report. Medians for the most recent data are enclosed in brackets [] in the text of this guide.

October Membership

This is the number of students reported in membership during the October count. For elementary schools the median membership in 1997 was [721] students. The median for middle schools was [1,050] and [1,627] for high schools.

Student Achievement

Estimated Percent Tested

This is the estimated percent of students tested in reading/communications, Florida Writes! and math for elementary, middle and high schools. These estimates are based on enrollment data in October for the HSCT and February for all other assessments. Exempted LEP students are accounted for in the 1997 estimates.

	Reading		Math		Writing	
	1996	1997	1996	1997	1996	1997
Elementary	96%	97%	95%	97%	95%	96%
Middle	93%	96%	93%	96%	93%	97%
High	91%	94%	92%	95%	86%	89%

% Above Median in Reading/Math

This is the percent of students scoring above the national median in Reading Comprehension or Math Concepts/Applications on the district norm-referenced test at grade 4 or 8. State medians in Reading and Math vary, depending on the particular test brand administered.

% 3 & Above on Writing

This is the percent of students scoring 3 or higher on the statewide writing assessment (Florida Writes!). In 1997 state medians were [44%] for elementary, [82%] for middle and [87%] for high schools.

% Passing HSCT Communications/Math

This is the percent of 11th grade students who passed the Communications or Math sections of the High School Competency Test during the fall administration. State medians in 1997 were [80%] for Communications and [76%] for Math.

12th Grade Graduation Rate

For high schools, a special calculation was made to determine the percent of 12th graders who graduated by the end of the school year. This is an annual graduation rate, not to be confused with the four-year rate based on entering freshmen. The state median in 1997 was [96.4%].

School Indicators

Promotion Rate

For elementary and middle schools, this is the percent of students who were promoted at the end of the school year. The median promotion rate was [98.4%] for elementary and [96.8%] for middle schools in 1997.

Out of School Suspension Rate

This is the percent of students who received out-of-school suspensions. For 1997, state medians were [1.1%] for elementary, [15.4%] for middle and [12.8%] for high schools.

% Absences 21+ Days

Percent of students who were absent for more than 20 days. State medians for 1997 were [8.8%] for elementary, [15.4%] for middle and [17.6%] for high schools.

Dropout Rate

For high schools, this is the percent of students 16 years or older who were reported as dropouts at the end of the school year. The state median was [3.9%] for 1997.

Student/School Characteristics**% on Free or Reduced Lunch**

Percent of students eligible for Free or Reduced Priced Lunch. State medians for 1997 were [56%] for elementary, [48%] for middle and [28%] for high schools. (NOTE: These data come from the Title I School Eligibility Survey.)

Minority Rate

Percent of students in the school who were minorities, including Black, Hispanic, Asian or Indian. State medians for 1997 were [35%] for elementary, [32%] for middle and [30%] for high schools.

Mobility Rate

Percent of students who transferred into or out of the school during the school year. The state medians for 1997 were [32%] for elementary, [29%] for middle and [28%] for high schools.

Instructional Staff Turnover

This is the percent of instructional staff who did not return from the previous year. The 1997 state medians were [13%] for elementary, [16%] for middle and [14%] for high schools.