

**Florida Department of Education
1997-1998 School Accountability Report Guide Sheet**

PURPOSE OF 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.

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 98 and 97 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.

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 Mathematics |
|--------------|--|--|---------------------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Elementary | 33% | 33% | 33% | n.a. | n.a. |
| Middle | 40% | 40% | 50% | n.a. | n.a. |
| High | n.a. | n.a. | 67% | 85% passing | 80% passing |

- Group 1: Critically Low (ALL 6 scores below min.)
- Group 2: 4 or 5 Critically Low Scores
- Group 3: 1, 2 or 3 Critically Low Scores
- Group 4: No Critically Low Scores

Year

This report contains separate entries for the 1997-98 and 1996-97 school years. Changes in achievement, process or school characteristics can be seen by comparing data from the two years.

October Membership

This is the number of students reported in membership during the October count. For elementary schools the median membership in 1998 was [719] students. The median for middle schools was [1,036] and [1,673] for high schools.

Student Achievement

% 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 administered.

% 3 & Above on Writing

This is the percent of students scoring 3 or higher on the statewide writing assessment (Florida Writes!). In 1998 state medians were [70%] for elementary, [81%] 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 1998 were [80%] for Communications and [76%] for Math.

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 1998 and 1997 estimates.

| | Reading | | Math | | Writing | |
|-------------------|----------------|------|-------------|------|----------------|------|
| | 1997 | 1998 | 1997 | 1998 | 1997 | 1998 |
| Elementary | 97% | 97% | 97% | 97% | 96% | 98% |
| Middle | 96% | 95% | 96% | 95% | 97% | 96% |
| High | 94% | 94% | 95% | 94% | 89% | 88% |

School Indicators

Out of School Suspension Rate

This is the percent of students who received out-of-school suspensions. For 98, state medians were [1.4%] for elementary, [14.4%] for middle and [11.7%] for high schools.

% Absences >20 days

Percent of students who were absent more than 20 days. State medians for 98 were [8.3%] for elementary, [14.4%] for middle and [18.0%] for high schools.

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 [97.8%] for elementary and [95.6%] for middle schools in 98.

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 [3.2%] for 98.

Student/School Characteristics

% on Free or Reduced Lunch

Percent of students eligible for Free or Reduced Priced Lunch. State medians for 98 were [56%] for elementary, [47%] for middle and [27%] 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 98 were [37%] for elementary, [33%] for middle and [31%] for high schools.

Mobility Rate

Percent of students who transferred into or out of the school during the school year. The state medians for 98 were [31%] for elementary, [28%] for middle and [27%] for high schools.

% New Staff

This is the percent of instructional staff and school-based administrators who were new to the school at the beginning of the school year. The 98 state medians were [14%] for elementary, [16%] for middle and [14%] for high schools.