

Education Information and Accountability Services EIAS BULLETIN

Changes at the Top



Interim Commissioner of Education Jeanine Blomberg retired from the department on November 30. She has served at the DOE since 1976 and has led the department since January 2007. We appreciate her contributions to education in Florida and wish her well in her retirement.



Dr. Eric Smith takes the helm at the department on December 3. The State Board of Education appointed him Commissioner of Education in October. Prior to coming to Florida, Dr. Smith served as Senior Vice President for College Readiness for the College Board. We welcome Dr. Smith to Florida and look forward to working with him.

State Graduation Rate Rises, Dropout Rate Falls

The 2006-07 graduation and dropout rates were released in November. The state graduation rate increased to 72.4% from 71.0% in 2005-06. Forty-seven of Florida's 67 school districts also experienced increases in their graduation rates. The graduation rate also rose for white, black, and Hispanic students. The graduation rate fell for American Indian (-1.0%) and multiracial (-0.5%), and the rate remained steady for Asian students.

Florida's dropout rate fell from 3.5 % in 2005-06 to 3.3% 2006-07. Forty of Florida's 67 school districts also experienced decreases in their dropout rates. Dropout rates also fell for white, Hispanic, American Indian, and multiracial students. The dropout rate for Asian students rose slightly, by 0.2%, while the rate remained steady for black students.

For district-level graduation and dropout rates by race and gender, please see the "Florida's Public High School Graduation Rates" statistical brief and "Dropout Demographics in Florida's Public Schools and Dropout Rates" Florida Information Note on our website at <http://www.fldoe.org/eias/eiaspubs/default.asp#student>.

Important Dates

December 7—Survey 9, 2007-08 data due
 January 7—Begin state processing for Survey 7, 2007-08
 January 11—Survey 7, 2007-08 data due
 January 11—End state processing for Survey 9, 2007-08
 January 18—End state processing for Survey 7, 2007-08
 February 4-8—Survey 3, 2007-08 FTE week
 February 11—Begin state processing for Survey 3, 2007-08
 February 15—Personnel e-mail address files due
 February 22—Survey 3, 2007-08 data due



Recent Reports & Publications



- The 2006-07 NCLB School Public Accountability Reports (SPAR) are available on our website at <http://doeweb-prd.doe.state.fl.us/eds/nclbspar/index.cfm>. These reports contain information on the educational progress of schools, school districts, and the state. Data are available for download in Excel spreadsheets at <http://www.fldoe.org/eias/eiaspubs/excel.asp>.
- Florida's high school graduation rates and dropout rates for 2006-07 were released November 30. Graduation and dropout rates by district are available on our website at <http://www.fldoe.org/eias/eiaspubs/2007grad.asp>. Four- and five-year graduation rates by race and gender are available in the "Florida's High School Graduation Rates" statistical brief at <http://www.fldoe.org/eias/eiaspubs/pdf/gradrate.pdf>. Dropout rates by race and gender are available in the Florida Information Note titled "Dropout Demographics in Florida's Public Schools and Dropout Rates" at <http://www.fldoe.org/eias/eiaspubs/pdf/dropdemo.pdf>.
- The Pocket Digest of Florida Education Data has been updated for 2006-07. The annual Pocket Digest contains state-level information on students, staff, schools, and finances. Copies of the Digest are not available online but can be mailed by request.



Tips for Data Reporting

- When reporting the Title I Supplemental Educational Services - Hours of Contact, record the cumulative number of hours of contact that the student had with the Title I Supplemental Educational Service Provider for the subject indicated. If the student has been assigned to a provider by the district but has not been reported by the provider as receiving services, report 000 for the hours of contact. If the student has not been assigned to receive services in a specific subject area, report 999 for the hours. Title I Supplemental Educational Services – Hours of Contact must be reported separately for each term and each service provider.
- Staff E-mail Address Data Collection: In accordance with Section 1012.05(3)(b), Florida Statutes, "By September 15 and February 15 of each year, each school district shall electronically submit accurate public school e-mail addresses for all instructional and administrative personnel, as identified in s.1012.01(2) and (3), to the Department of Education." The submission period for the February 15 data collection is from January 15, 2008, to February 15, 2008. Please review the memo dated August 20, 2007, on the Update of Personnel E-mail Contact Information for further specifics.
- The US Education Department has changed the guidelines for reporting neglected/delinquent students. Adhering to this new definition will keep Florida from losing federal funds in this program. The guidelines now read:

For Title I, Part D, Local Residential Students and for Title I, Part D, Local Non-Residential Students:

Report Local Neglected/Delinquent Institution Numbers only for students ages 5-17 inclusive who were served in the institution for at least one day during the designated 30 day count period in the reporting year. The count period (which may be set separately for each institution) is 30 consecutive calendar days at least one of which falls within the month of October.

Have a safe and happy holiday season!

