



For Immediate Release
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Martin County School District
Writing+ Scores for 4th, 8th, and 10th Grades Among the Highest in the State

May 8, 2008– The Florida Department of Education has released the 2008 *FCAT Writing+* scores. For each grade level tested (4th, 8th, and 10th), Martin County School District students scored above the state average on the Essay portion of the test for both the percentage of students scoring at or above 3.5 (proficiency) and the percentage of students scoring at or above 4.0. Each grade level tested also showed an increase compared to 2007 results.

In addition, Martin County 4th grade results were tied for the 6th highest in the state, 8th grade results were tied for 3rd highest, and 10th grade students were also tied for 3rd highest scores among Florida’s 67 school districts. These distinctions reflect the percentage of students scoring at 3.5 (proficiency) or higher on the essay portion of the test.

FCAT Writing + (Essay Only)	% 3.5 or above		% 4.0 or above	
	District	State	District	State
4th Grade 2008	85%	77%	75%	63%
4th Grade 2007	84%	78%	70%	64%
8th Grade 2008	92%	88%	85%	78%
8th Grade 2007	90%	86%	82%	74%
10th Grade 2008	85%	78%	70%	62%
10th Grade 2007	78%	79%	65%	64%

The Mean Scale Scores are a combination of the essay and the multiple choice portion of the *FCAT Writing+* test. 2008 *FCAT Writing+* results show Martin County School District students scored significantly higher than the state average for each grade level tested (4th, 8th, and 10th). Each grade level also showed an increase compared to 2007 results (*See table below*)

The Achievement Levels reflect students’ combined scores (essay and multiple choice) by level. An Achievement Level of 3 is proficient. 2008 *Writing+* Achievement Level results show the Martin County School District is significantly above the state average for students scoring in Levels 3-5. Each grade tested also showed an increase compared to 2007 results. (*See table below*)

FCAT Writing + (Combined Essay & Multiple Choice)	Mean Scale Score		Achievement Level % scoring Levels 3-5	
	District	State	District	State
4th Grade 2008	329	304	74%	61%
4th Grade 2007	319	302	67%	60%
8th Grade 2008	327	300	65%	50%
8th Grade 2007	320	291	62%	45%
10th Grade 2008	323	302	65%	53%
10th Grade 2007	309	296	55%	49%



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The 2008 Writing+ FCAT results show significant achievements at *many* of the schools in the Martin County School District. Below are just a few of the notable accomplishments. Individual school results can be viewed on the Florida Department of Education website, www.fldoe.org.

MCSD Elementary:

SeaWind Elementary showed the *largest increase* among elementary schools for the percentage of 4th grade students scoring at or above proficiency (3.5) on the essay portion of the test. SWE increased from 76% scoring at 3.5 and above in 2007, to **91% in 2008**.

J.D. Parker School of Science, Math, and Technology and **Port Salerno Elementary** tied for having the *highest percentage* of 4th grade students scoring at or above proficiency (3.5) on the essay portion of the test. Both schools had 94% of 4th grade students scoring at or above proficiency.

MCSD Middle:

Indiantown Middle School showed the *largest increase* among middle schools for the percentage of 8th grade students scoring at or above proficiency (3.5) on the essay portion of the test. IMS increased from 84% scoring at or above 3.5 in 2007, to **97% in 2008**. This is also the *highest percentage* of 8th grade students scoring at or above proficiency in the District.

MCSD High School:

Jensen Beach High School showed the largest increase among high schools for the percentage of 10th grade students scoring at or above proficiency (3.5) on the essay portion of the test. JBHS increased from 80% scoring at 3.5 and above in 2007, to **92% in 2008**. This is also the *highest percentage* of 10th grade students scoring at or above proficiency in the District.