

**READ 180 in Miami-Dade County, Florida
2005–2006**

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Executive Summary

Miami-Dade County Schools first implemented *READ 180* in 2004–2005 with elementary, middle, and high schools in the district's School Improvement Zone. The School Improvement Zone includes schools that have underperformed academically for several years. They receive intensive support and a special academic program that provides a longer school day and extended school year, as well as additional professional development for their teachers. This research brief summarizes reading achievement data from six months of *READ 180* intervention during school year 2005–2006.

The Scholastic Research Department analyzed Florida's Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) achievement data of 3,309 middle school students in Miami-Dade County who participated in *READ 180*. Data were collected from 11 middle schools: Allapattah, Brownsville, Campbell Drive, Charles Drew, Horace Mann, Jose de Diego, Leisure City, Madison, Miami Edison, Parkway, and Westview.

Analysis of the FCAT results revealed a significant improvement in performance on the FCAT for students in *READ 180*. Interestingly, participating schools' overall Florida School Grades also revealed improvement.

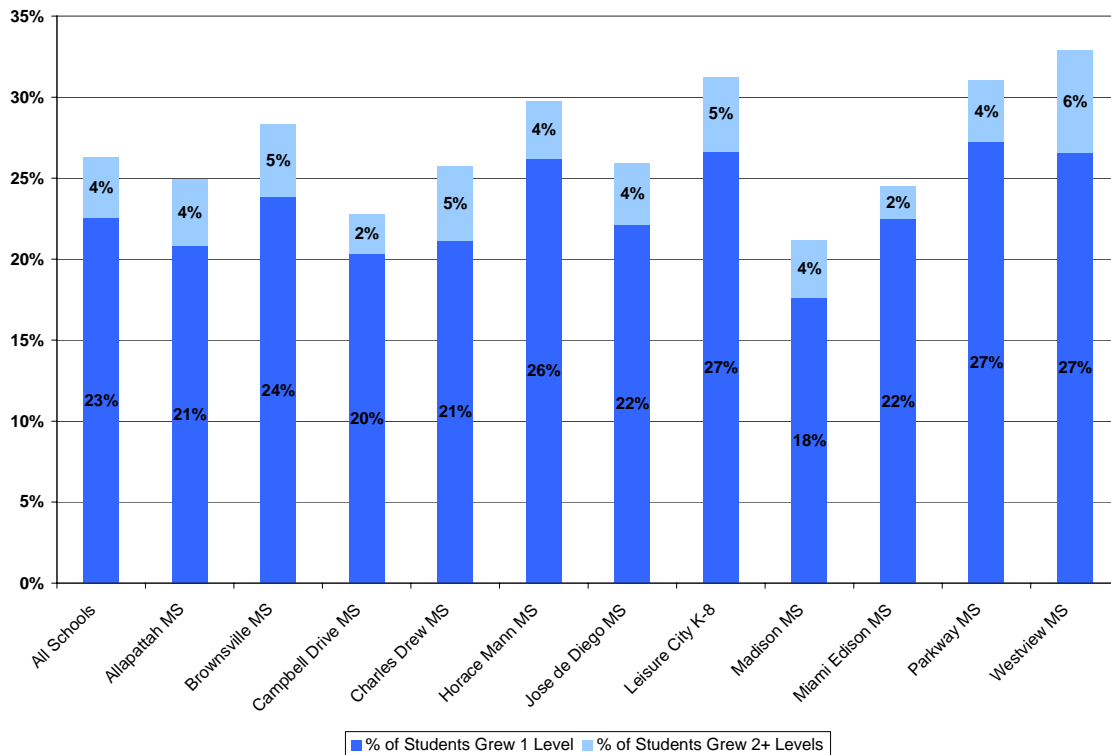
- Miami-Dade middle school *READ 180* students revealed significant reading achievement level gains on the FCAT.
 - A total of 68% of *READ 180* middle school students exceeded the expected FCAT developmental scale score gain of 110 points, or one year's worth of reading growth.
 - A total of 27% of FCAT Levels 1 and 2 *READ 180* middle school students moved up one or more reading levels.
 - Students performing at FCAT Level 1 averaged annual reading gains of two years or more.
 - *READ 180* students' mean FCAT gains surpassed district-wide mean FCAT gains.
- Most schools that participated in *READ 180* during 2005–2006 also improved their Florida School Grade.
 - Eight out of the 11 Miami-Dade middle schools (Allapattah, Campbell Drive, Charles Drew, Jose de Diego, Leisure City, Madison, Miami Edison, and Westview) improved their Florida School Grade by one letter grade after one year of implementation.

FCAT Results—All Students

Significant Reading Achievement Level and FCAT Developmental Scale Score Gains on the FCAT for Miami-Dade Middle School READ 180 Students

As of March 2006, after 6 months of *READ 180* intervention in Miami-Dade, results demonstrate a significant improvement in reading scores on the FCAT. A total of 26% of *READ 180* students achieved growth of 1 or more FCAT reading achievement levels.¹ For some middle schools, as many as 33% of their *READ 180* students gained 1 or more reading achievement levels.

Graph 1. FCAT Reading Achievement Level Gains, All Miami *READ 180* Middle School Students, March 2005 to March 2006 (N=3,309)

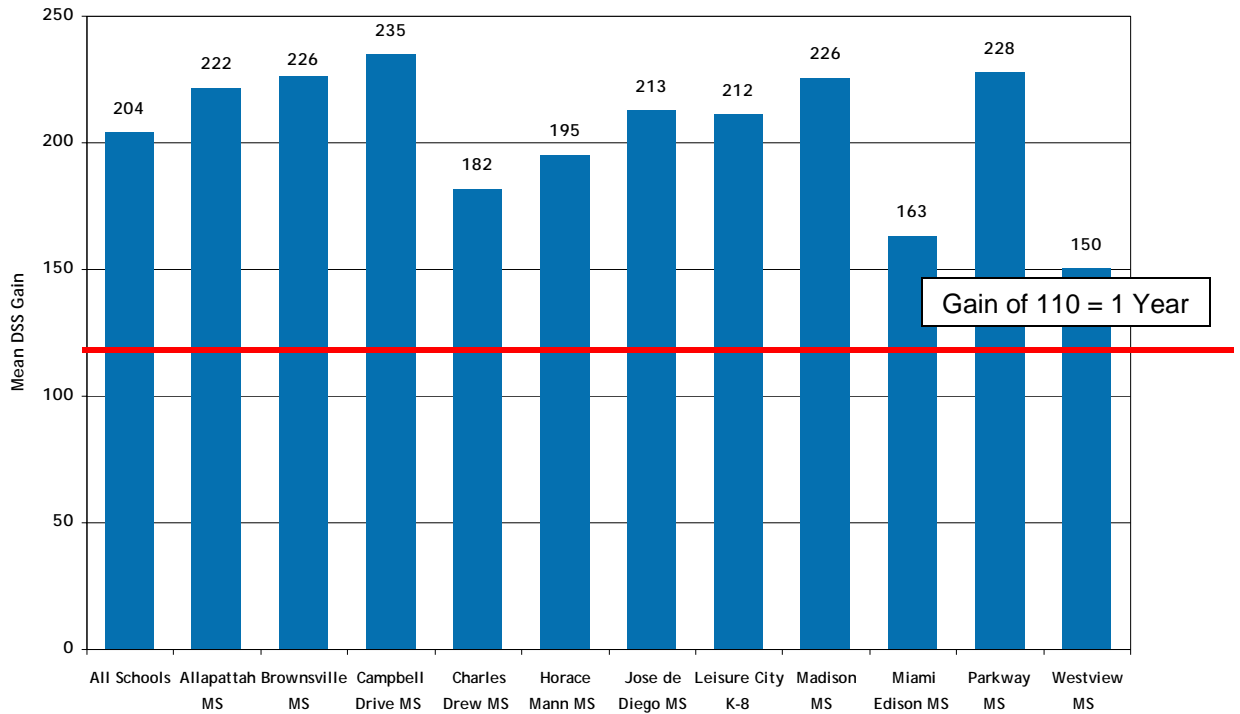


¹On the FCAT, achievement levels range from 1 to 5, with Level 1 being the lowest, Level 3 being the middle, or proficiency, level, and Level 5 being the highest.

FCAT Results—All Students, continued

After 6 months of *READ 180* intervention in Miami-Dade, results also show that a total of 68% of *READ 180* middle school students exceeded the expected FCAT developmental scale score gain of 110 points, or one year's worth of reading growth, with a mean DSS gain of 204.

Graph 2. FCAT Developmental Scale Score Mean Gains, All Miami *READ 180* Middle School Students, March 2005 to March 2006 (N=3,309)

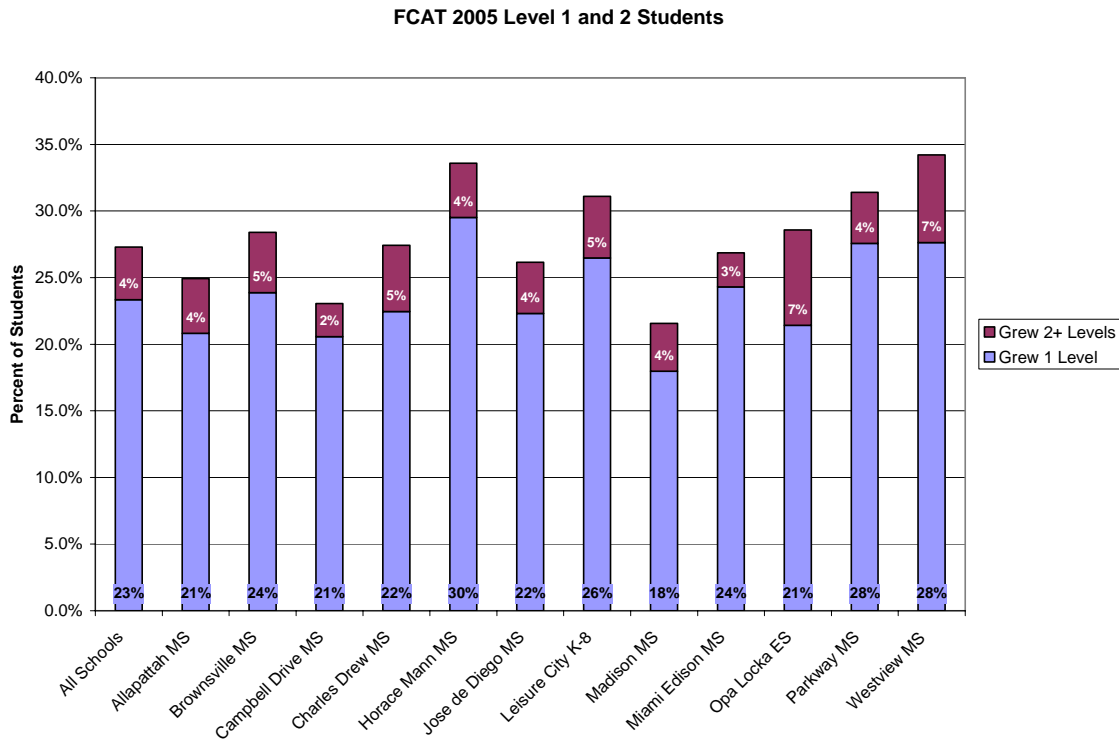


FCAT Results—Levels 1 and 2 Students

Miami-Dade READ 180 Middle School Students Performing in FCAT Levels 1 and 2 Achieved Significant Reading Achievement Level Gains on the FCAT

Results demonstrate that after 6 months of *READ 180* intervention, many *READ 180* students moved up by 1 or more reading achievement levels. According to 2005 FCAT results, 94% of the middle school *READ 180* students were reading at FCAT reading Level 1 or Level 2. By March 2006, a total of 27% of all Level 1 and Level 2 students moved up 1 or more reading levels. Average growth of one or more FCAT reading achievement levels in each middle school ranged from 22% to 35%.

Graph 3. FCAT Reading Achievement Level Gains, Miami *READ 180* Middle School Students Scoring Level 1 or Level 2 in 2005, March 2005 to March 2006 (N=3,136)



FCAT Results—Levels 1 and 2 Students, continued

A total of 27% (N=667) of Level 1 students moved up one or more reading levels by March 2006, while 4.4% of Level 1 students (N=110) grew to Level 3 or above. A total of 30% (N=189) Level 2 students moved to reading Level 3 or above (Table 1).

Table 1. FCAT Reading Achievement Level Gains by 2005 FCAT Reading Level, Miami
READ 180 Middle School Students, March 2005 to March 2006

FCAT Reading Level in March 2005	FCAT Reading Level in March 2006 (Gain)			
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Level 1 (N=2495)	1828	557	106	4
	73.30%	22.30%	4.20%	0.20%
Level 2 (N=641)	183	269	175	14
	28.50%	42.00%	27.30%	2.20%

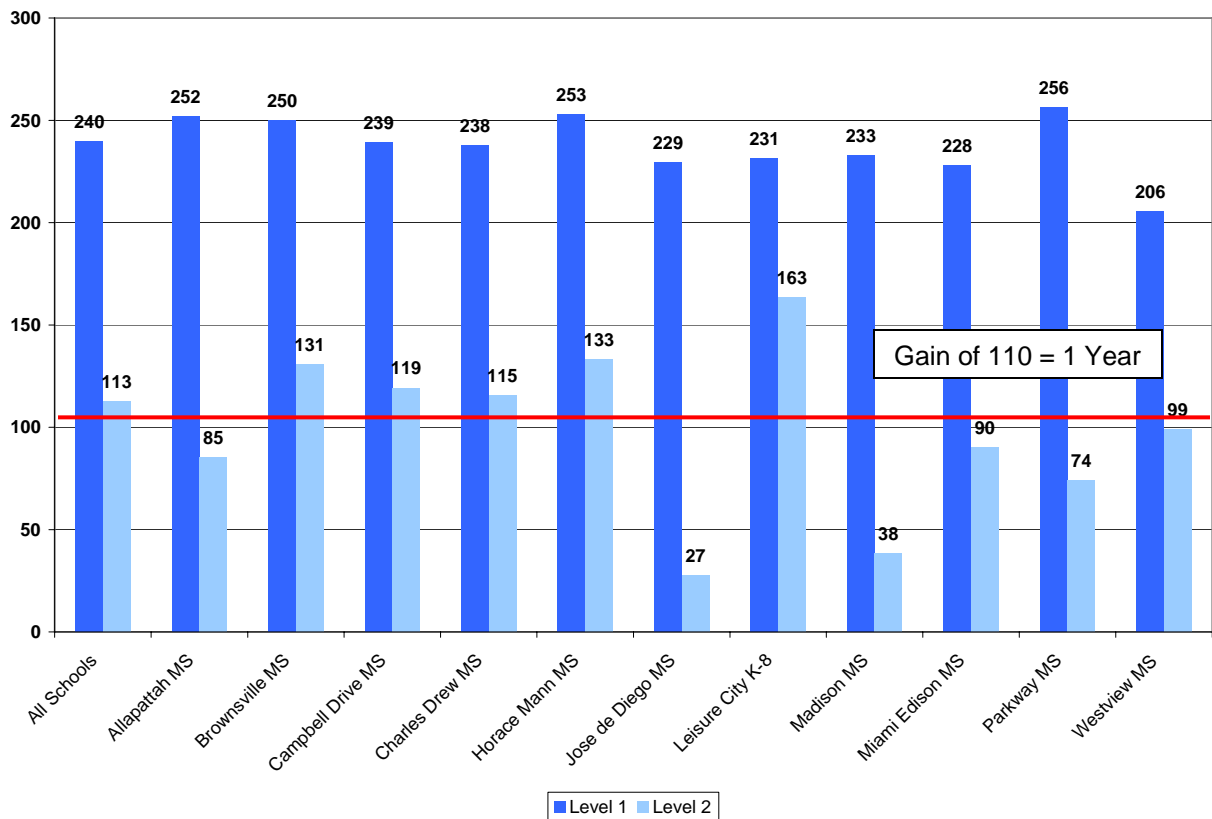
Table reads: 27% of *READ 180* students who scored at Level 1 on the March 2005 FCAT moved to Level 2 or above on the March 2006 FCAT, while 30% of former Level 2 students moved to Level 3 or above after 6 months of *READ 180* intervention.

FCAT Results—Level 1 and Level 2 Students

FCAT Developmental Scale Score Gains Indicate Level 1 READ 180 Students Achieved Annual Reading Gains of Two Years or More

A total of 94% of middle school students entering *READ 180* in Miami-Dade were scoring at Level 1 or Level 2 on the FCAT in March 2006. For Level 1 students in particular, FCAT Developmental Scale Score (DSS) points revealed significant growth. After 6 months of *READ 180*, students scoring in Level 1 before *READ 180* averaged gains of two or more years of reading growth.² For five middle schools, the performance for Level 2 students averaged over one year of reading growth. (Graph 3)

Graph 4. Average FCAT Developmental Scale Score Gains for Levels 1 and 2 *READ 180* Students by School



² For sixth to eighth grade, a gain of 110 FCAT DSS (Developmental Scale Score) points is equivalent to one year of reading growth.

FCAT Results—Level 1 and Level 2 Students

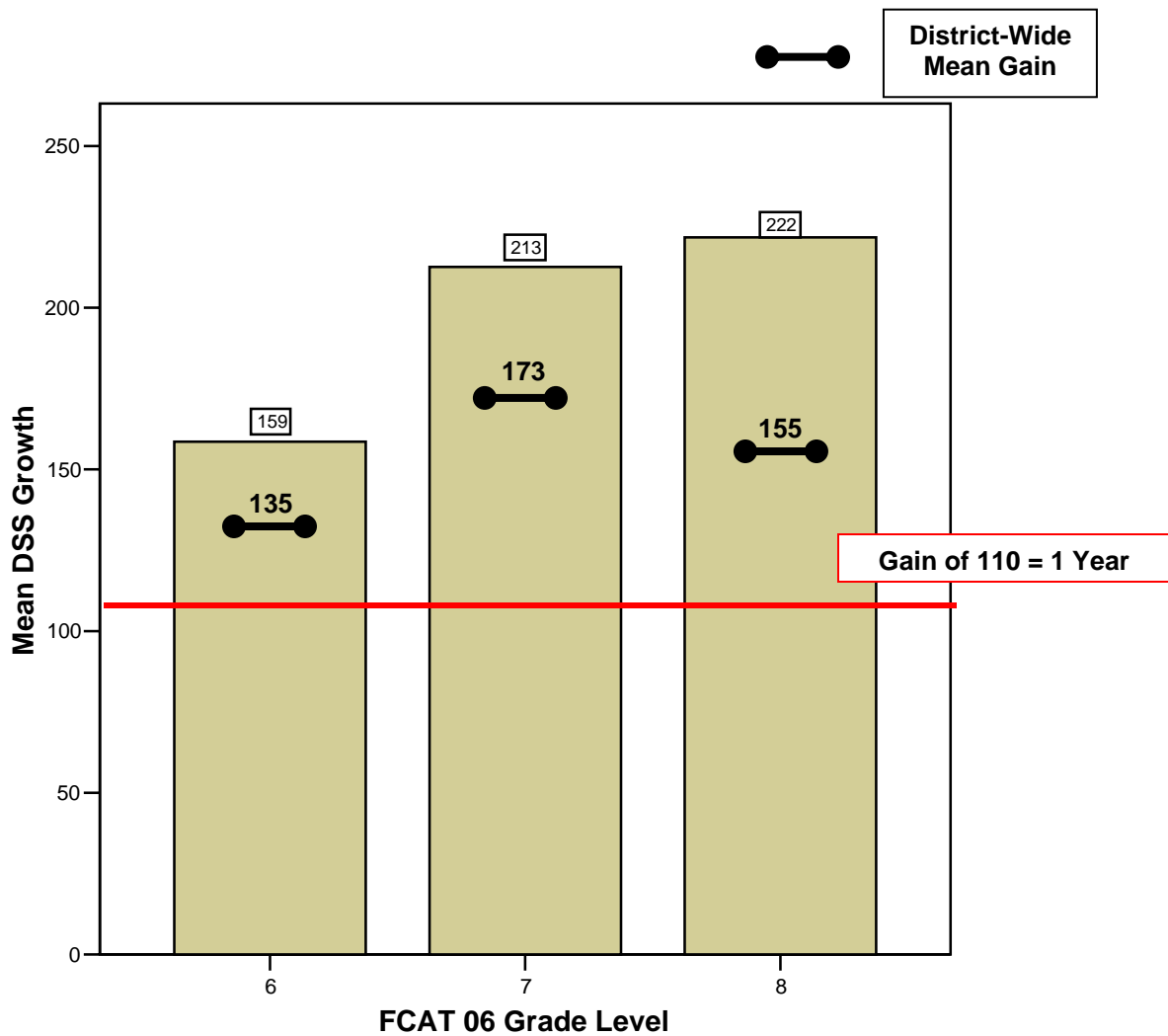
READ 180 Students Outperformed Average District FCAT Developmental Scale Score Gains

A comparison of *READ 180* FCAT Developmental Scale Score gains to district-wide gains revealed that Level 1 *READ 180* students in Grades 6-8 surpassed overall district DSS gains per grade.

Further disaggregation of FCAT performance by grade revealed a trend of greater growth for seventh- and eighth-grade Level 1 students, who achieved a mean of two or more years of reading growth. Sixth grade Level 1 students gained almost two years of reading growth.

For Level 2 students, there was also a trend of greater growth for seventh and eighth grade, where they achieved over one year of reading growth, while sixth-grade Level 2 students achieved almost one year's growth.

Graph 5. Average FCAT Developmental Scale Score Growth of *READ 180* Students by Grade



School Grades Increased for Nearly All Schools Using READ 180

Eight Out of the 11 Miami-Dade Middle Schools with READ 180 Improved by One Letter Grade

According to the 2006 *Guide to Calculating School Grades* issued by the Florida Department of Education,³ there are three reading measures included in the six performance measures used to determine the overall grade (A, B, C, D, or F) for school performance. These reading measures are: 1) the percentage of students who meet high standards by scoring at or above FCAT Achievement Level 3 in reading; 2) the percentage of students making learning gains in reading; and 3) the percentage of the lowest performing students making learning gains in reading.

In the 2005-2006 school year, 8 out of the 11 Miami-Dade middle schools with the *READ 180* intervention improved their Florida School Grade by one letter grade.

Table 2. Florida School Grades Assigned to Miami-Dade County *READ 180* Schools, 2004–2005 and 2005–2006

School	School Grade 2004–2005	School Grade 2005–2006	Grade Letter Increase
Allapattah Middle	D	C	+1
Brownsville Middle	C	C	0
Campbell Middle	D	C	+1
Charles Drew Middle	D	C	+1
Horace Mann Middle	C	C	0
Jose de Diego Middle	D	C	+1
Leisure City K-8	C	B	+1
Madison Middle	D	C	+1
Miami Edison Middle	D	C	+1
Parkway Middle	C	C	0
Westview Middle	I	D	+1

³ Evaluation and Reporting Office, Division of Accountability, Research and Measurement. (2005). *2006 guide to calculating school grades: Technical assistance paper 2005-06*. Tallahassee, FL: Florida Department of Education. Retrieved September 15, 2006, from <http://schoolgrades.fldoe.org/pdf/2006SchoolGradesTAP.pdf>