

Broward students noted for higher scores on state test

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Broward County is among a small number of U.S. school districts where the reading and math scores of fourth- and eighth-graders on standardized tests equaled or beat the rest of the state.

That conclusion came Wednesday from a Council of Great City Schools report, which analyzed how students in the country's 67 largest school districts have performed on major state-mandated tests since 2002.

With more than 270,000 students, Broward is the country's sixth-largest district. It also is one of five districts where students read as well as, if not better than, the children of the state where the district is.

In the report, the council, an association of large, mostly urban school districts, said comparing test results nationwide was difficult because each state has its own testing system, such as the Florida Comprehensive Achievement Test (FCAT).

According to Florida Department of Education in 2006: 69 percent of Broward's fourth-graders and 51 percent of its eighth-graders scored a 3 on the reading portion of the FCAT. A student who scores a 3 is considered to read at grade level. Sixty-six percent of fourth-graders and 46 percent of eighth-graders received the score statewide.

Broward and Palm Beach counties were two of seven districts mentioned in the report where fourth and eighth-grade students' math scores matched or beat the rest of the state.

Seventy-seven percent of Broward's fourth-graders got 3s on the math portion of the FCAT last year compared with 67 percent statewide, according to the state. Sixty-four percent of the eighth-graders got 3s compared with 60 percent statewide.