

State releases school grades - District encouraged

The Florida Department of Education has released the 2012 school grades for elementary and middle schools across the state. High school grades will be released later in the school year.

We are encouraged by the increase in the percentage of our schools scoring an "A." Statewide the percentage of "A's" from 2011 to 2012 dropped 15% from 58% to 43%. In Collier County the percentage of schools receiving "A's" increased 16% from 38% to 54%. In 2011, Collier had 20% fewer "A's" than the state while this year Collier has 11% more "A's" than the state. This is an outstanding accomplishment, particularly in a year when accountability standards were increased.

Overall, a total of 39 schools in Collier County (excluding high schools and charter schools) were graded by the State. Of the schools graded both in FY11 and FY12, 21 schools received an "A" in FY12 compared to 15 schools in FY11. Twenty-seven schools, out of 39, were graded "A" or "B." Nine schools were graded "C" and three schools received a "D" grade. There are no "F" schools this year. Note: Excluding high schools and charter schools

Of the 29 elementary schools with grades,

9 schools improved one grade, Manatee Elementary increased by two letter grades, 6 schools improved to an "A" grade, one school dropped to a "D", and there was no "F" school. Eighteen schools maintained the same letter grade.

Of the 10 middle schools with grades, eight schools maintained the letter grade from the previous year and two schools dropped one letter grade.

Other tables showed the elementary and middle school grades for FY11 and FY12. Table 5 shows a comparison between Collier County and the state. Compared to last year, Collier increased in the number of "A" schools while the State dropped.

The results released today indicate three of our schools have lower grades than they did last year. This does not mean our students are not doing as well as they did last year. The Department of Education (DOE) expected the combination of changes to cause a drop in some schools' grades. We know the increased expectations will better prepare our students for the rigor of the Common Core State Standards and the aligned assessment. The DOE reminds us that each time Florida's school grading sys-

tem has increased expectations student performance has improved over the course of time. However, lower school grades are disheartening as our teachers, students, administrators, and parents/community members work diligently every day to make sure high-quality teaching leads to increased student learning.

High school grades will be released later in the school year. Fifty percent of the high school grade is comprised of non-FCAT components which are not yet released by the State. These components include graduation rate of all students and those identified as academically at risk, participation and performance of students in accelerated coursework, and postsecondary readiness of students.

The components for the calculation of school grades have changed somewhat for this past school year. The changes for elementary and middle schools are as follows:

- Uses new rigorous achievement level cut scores for FCAT 2.0 Reading and Mathematics and Algebra 1;
- Incorporates students with disabilities in Reading, Mathematics, Writing, and Science performance components in the same

way as other students;

- Includes English Language Learners in Reading, Mathematics, Writing, and Science performance components like other students after only being in school one year and one day (instead of two years as previously required);

- Provides additional expectations for learning gains for students in levels 1 and 2 with additional weighting for those who exceed the expectations;

- Increases the weighting of learning gains for students moving into levels 4 and 5 from lower levels;

- Resets the Writing standards to 3.0;
- Allows the use of the Algebra 1 End-of-Course assessment scores in the middle school in lieu of the FCAT 2.0 scores;

- Adds a new component of acceleration for middle school grades which would include participation and performance on high-school level End-of-Course assessments.

These changes have raised the bar and we do embrace setting high, yet realistic standards.

Health Dept. urges parents to get children immunized

-Don't wait until the last minute for mandatory back to school immunizations-

The Collier County Health Department encourages all parents and caregivers to check the immunization status and school

requirements for their children. As children and families across Collier County prepare to start another school year, it is vital that all students have their required immunizations. Immunization documentation on a DOH Form 680, Certification of Immunization, is required for all students in grades pre-Kindergarten (K) through 12.

"We encourage everyone to get your chil-

dren up-to-date with their immunizations and not wait for the school rush," states Dr. Joan Colfer, Director of the Collier County Health Department. "There is no time like the present to update children's immunizations and provide them with the required documentation to attend school." Colfer reminds, "Immunizations protect your child as well as his or her siblings, playmates and classmates from a variety of childhood illnesses including: Whooping Cough, Polio, Chickenpox, Measles, Mumps, Tetanus and Hepatitis. Immunizations are one of the most important steps parents can take for the health of their children."

The Health Department in Immokalee (419 1st Street North) offers free immunizations for children through 18 years of age. Clinic hours are Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Appointments are not necessary. For questions, please call 252-7300.

Documentation for required immunizations is mandatory for all students entering,

attending, or transferring into a Florida school in grades pre-Kindergarten (K) through 12 as detailed in the Immunization Guidelines for Florida Schools, Childcare Facilities, and Family Daycare Homes. A 2012-2013 flyer outlining school requirements is available here. The Bureau of Immunization launched their new website www.immunizeflorida.com to bring together the best resources on vaccines and provide consumers with easy-to-understand vaccination information.

The Department of Health (DOH) Online Newsroom has additional tools on immunization including an Ask the Expert video with Chuck Alexander and a public service announcement for parents called "Get On Board" which encourages school-aged children to get their immunizations in time for back to school.

Follow us on Twitter at @HealthyFla and on Facebook. For news story ideas, interviews, videos and more from DOH Communications visit the DOH Online Newsroom.

Immokalee district schools changing student hours

If you are the parent or guardian of an Immokalee student, this information is for you. All Collier County Public Schools in Immokalee will be changing student arrival and dismissal times beginning on the first day of school, Monday, Aug. 20. The new hours for each school are listed below. Parents - please make note of the new times and share them with your child.

SCHOOL ARRIVAL DISMISSAL

Eden Park Elem.-8:15 a.m.- 3:10 p.m.
Highlands Elem.- 8:33 a.m. - 2:58 p.m.
Lake Trafford Elem.-8 a.m.- 3:30 p.m.
Pinecrest Elem.-8:33 a.m.- 2:58 p.m.
Village Oaks Elem.-8:33 a.m.-2:58 p.m.

Immokalee Middle-8:58 a.m. - 3:43 p.m.
Immokalee High 7:05 a.m.-2:23 p.m.

In order to accommodate the revised arrival and dismissal times, bus schedules will be adjusted. All bus schedules will be available online (<http://bus.collierschools.com>) by Tuesday, Aug. 7, and Immokalee-specific schedules will be published in the Immokalee Bulletin on Thursday, Aug. 9.

All after-school program times at Immokalee schools will also be adjusted based on the new school dismissal times.

Questions? Please contact the Communications and Community Engagement Department at 239-377-0180.

NEED FLOOD INSURANCE???

Did you know... Flood insurance is now required in Immokalee if your home has a mortgage. Just an inch of water can cause costly damage to your property. Homeowners insurance does not cover flood damage, rising water. It's important to buy insurance before floodwaters start to rise, there is a 30 day waiting period if not required by lender. Last year, one-third of all claims paid by the NFIP were for policies in low-risk communities.

Contact us at Bruce Hendry Insurance for a FREE FLOOD QUOTE at 239-657-3614



florida.newszip.com

Check out these new features:

- Daily Local News Updates
- New interactive and easy to navigate format
- Plus much, much more!

Come see for yourself!