

## **GRADE 3 - FLORIDA COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT TEST (FCAT)**

The Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test, or FCAT, is part of a state-wide initiative to raise academic standards for students in the State of Florida. FCAT, started in the 1997-98 school year, is a standardized, criterion-referenced test that focuses on reading and mathematics skills which are outlined in the Sunshine State Standards (the state prescribed description of skills that students in Florida should learn). The reading section evaluates students' ability to understand the meaning of informational and literary passages. In the math section, students need to be able to do basic math operations and answer questions utilizing measurement, geometry, algebra, and data analysis.

FCAT is now administered to all students in grades 3 – 10 and results are reported publicly in summary form as well as part of the State Accountability Report (school grading). Generally, scores are reported as percentages of students in each of five achievement levels (Level 1 = lowest, Level 5 = highest), and specifically the percentage of students scoring in Levels 3-5 (Level 3 is considered on grade level).

### **Mandatory Third Grade Retention**

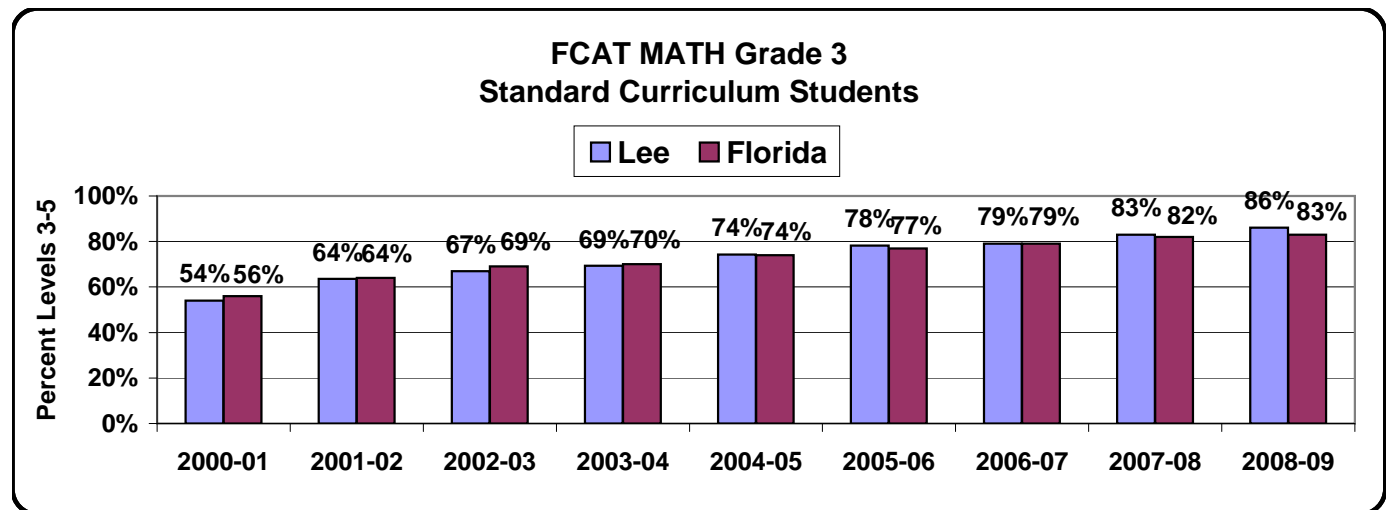
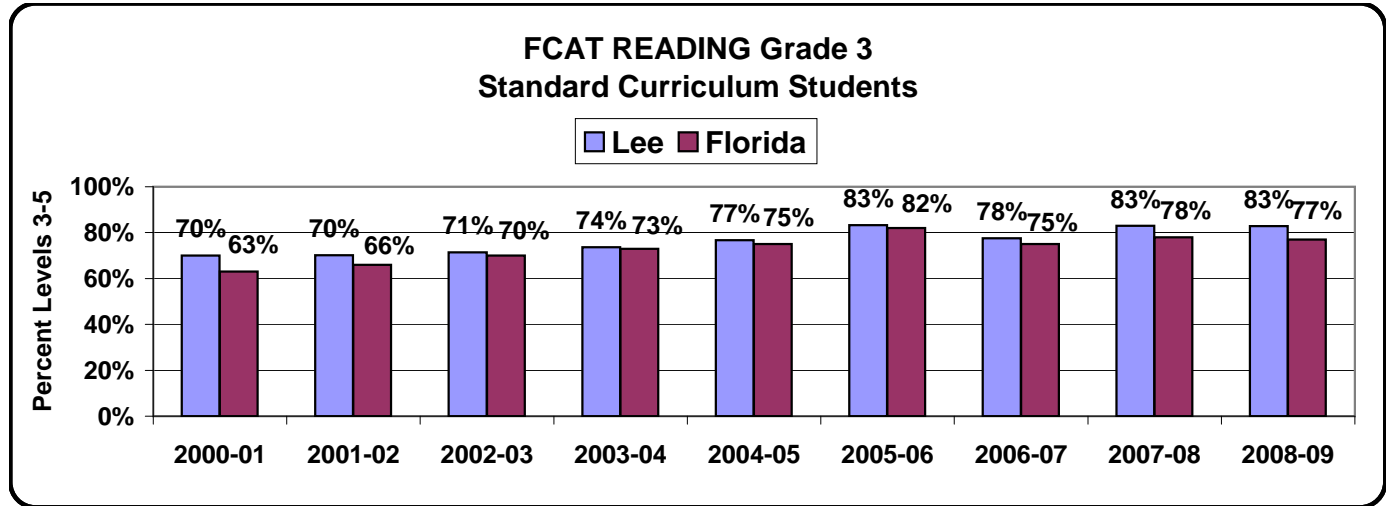
In 2002-03, the State Legislature mandated that third grade students scoring in Level 1 on FCAT Reading be retained in third grade.

However, there are six Good Cause Exemptions which would allow the district to place these students in fourth grade:

- 1) Limited English Proficient Students who have had less than 2 years of instruction in an English for Speakers of Other Languages program.
- 2) Students with disabilities whose individual education plan indicates that participation in the statewide assessment program is not appropriate, consistent with the requirements of State Board of Education Rule.
- 3) Students who demonstrate an acceptable level of performance on an alternative standardized reading assessment approved by the State Board of Education.
- 4) Students who demonstrate, through a student portfolio, that the student is reading on grade level as evidenced by demonstration of mastery of the Sunshine State Standards in reading equal to at least a Level 2 performance on the FCAT.
- 5) Students with disabilities who participate in the FCAT and who have an individual education plan or a Section 504 plan that reflects that the student has received the intensive remediation in reading, as required by Florida Statute, for more than 2 years but still demonstrates a deficiency in reading and was previously retained in grades K-3.
- 6) Students who have received the intensive remediation in reading as required by Florida Statute for 2 or more years but still demonstrate a deficiency in reading and who were previously retained in grades K-3 for a total of 2 years.

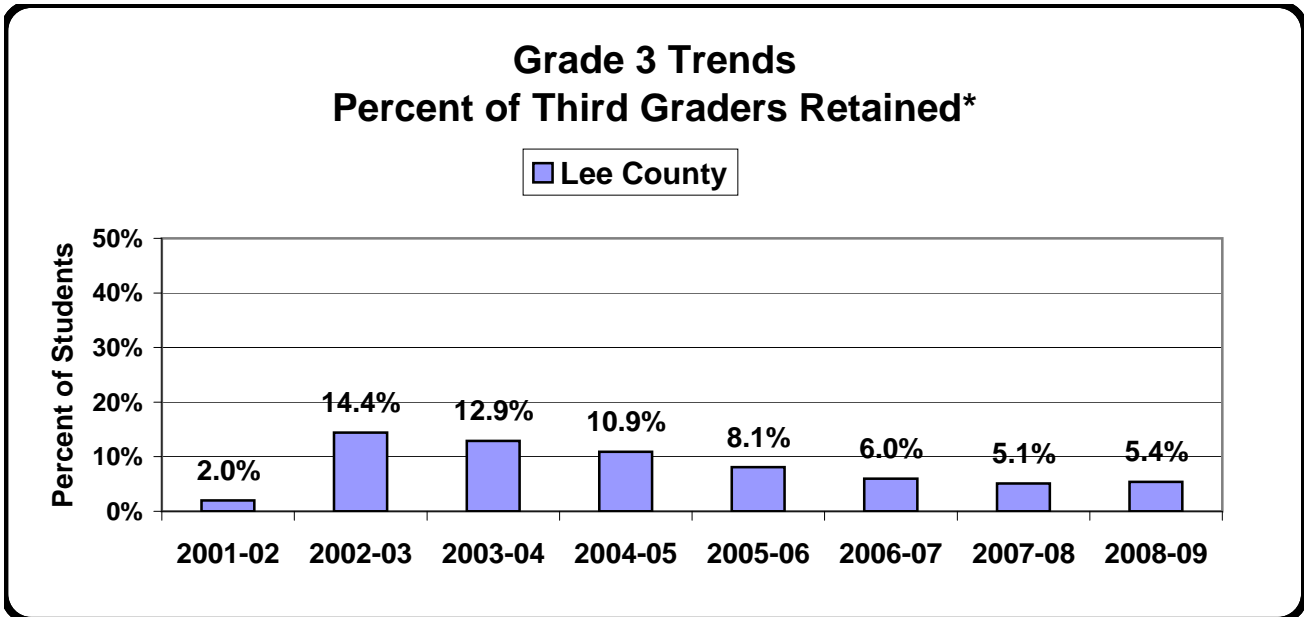
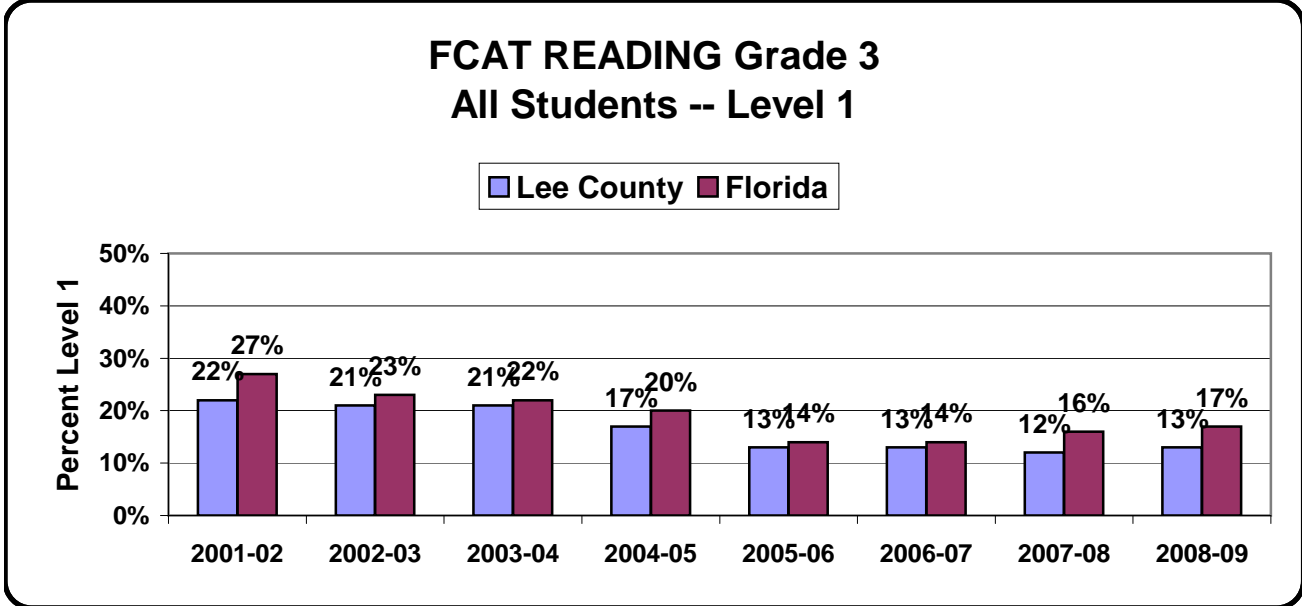
# ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Continuous Improvement



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## Continuous Improvement



\*State mandated retention of third graders scoring in FCAT Reading Level 1 began in 2002-03.