

Graduation Rate and FCAT Summary Life Skills Center South (7721)

Because comparisons to state and district data may not reflect the effectiveness of the academic program offered at Life Skills Center, graduation rates and percentages of students passing FCAT retakes were also obtained from Bayside High School, a comparative alternative high school located in Pinellas County.

Table A compares the state cohort graduation rates for Life Skills Center, Bayside High School, and Pinellas County. Closer examination of the displayed data reveals lower graduation rates for students attending Life Skills Center and Bayside High School compared to the Pinellas County average. In addition, annual graduation rates for students enrolled at Life Skills Center have been significantly below Bayside High School's graduation rate for each year since Life Skills Center has been open.

Table A: Graduation Rate – State Cohort Calculation

School ↓	Year →	2006		2007		2008		2009		Totals – Avg. Rate	
		#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Life Skills		0	0%	13	13%	18	13%	32	11%	63	12%
Bayside High		5	22%	26	28%	61	42%	49	41%	141	37%
Total Pinellas		5452	67%	5836	67%	6327	74%	6676	81%	24290	72%

Tables B and C reflect the FCAT reading and math retake passing rates for Life Skills Center, Bayside High School, and the Pinellas County School District. Thorough inspection of tables B and C reveal similar findings to the graduation rates in table A. The FCAT reading retake passing rates for Life Skills Center were consistently lower than the district average, and yielded lower percentages of students passing than Bayside High School who were required to retake the reading FCAT. In contrast, the reading retakes passing rate for Bayside High School was slightly higher than the district average in the Spring 2007 and Spring 2008 reading retake administration.

Table B: FCAT Reading Retakes Passing

School ↓	Date →	Spring 2006	Fall 2006	Spring 2007	Fall 2007	Spring 2008	Fall 2008	Spring 2009	Fall 2009
Life Skills		8%	20%	9%	11%	9%	8%	8%	10%
Bayside High		9%	27%	21%	19%	22%	15%	21%	15%
Total Pinellas		16%	29%	19%	27%	20%	24%	22%	26%

With the exception of the Spring 2006 FCAT math retake administration, the math retake passing rate for students from Life Skills Center was lower than the district's average and Bayside High School. Although the Fall 2006 and Spring 2008 showed the percentage of Bayside High School's students passing the math FCAT was higher than the district average, the math retake passing rate for Bayside was lower than the district average in all other administrations.

Table C: FCAT Math Retakes Passing

School ↓	Date →	Spring 2006	Fall 2006	Spring 2007	Fall 2007	Spring 2008	Fall 2008	Spring 2009	Fall 2009
Life Skills		20%	25%	18%	14%	19%	18%	10%	14%
Bayside High		17%	43%	29%	20%	44%	23%	15%	25%
Total Pinellas		36%	36%	34%	32%	34%	37%	28%	38%

Life Skills Center’s Spring 2009 school accountability results for their 9th and 10th grade students are summarized below.

- The percent of Life Skills students participating in the FCAT achievement assessments was 69%. This is one of the lowest participation rates statewide for schools eligible to earn a School Improvement Rating (SIR).
- The percent of Life Skills 9th and 10th grade students scoring at the proficient level on the Reading FCAT was 6%.
- The percent of Life Skills 9th and 10th grade students scoring at the proficient level on the Math FCAT was 9%.

In conclusion, because both Life Skills Center and Bayside High School present educational programs which provide alternative opportunities for its students to achieve graduation requirements, comparisons of this school data were relevant and demonstrate substantial deficiencies in the academic performance of Life Skills Center.