



RESEARCH BRIEF

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Miami-Dade County Public Schools: 2014-2015 Student Performance in the Cambridge Advanced International Certificate of Education Program

Results at a Glance

This Research Brief summarizes the performance of M-DCPS students participating in the Cambridge Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) Program. Cambridge courses and examinations were offered at 12 M-DCPS high schools in 2014-2015, up from nine high schools in 2013-2014. The number of Cambridge AICE examinations taken by M-DCPS students increased by 30% from 2013-2014 to 2014-2015. The percentage of AICE examinations receiving passing scores also increased, from 61% in 2013-2014 to 63% in 2014-2015. At the conclusion of the 2014-2015 school year, 71% of eligible Cambridge students received AICE diplomas, down from 77% in 2013-2014.

The Cambridge Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) diploma program is an international curriculum and examination system that emphasizes the value of broad and balanced study. Along with in-depth understanding of a variety of subjects, students are also required to master a broad range of skills critical for success in university study and employment. The program emphasizes the development of higher order thinking skills, oral skills, writing skills, problem solving, real world applications, independent investigative skills, teamwork, and international understanding.

The AICE program provides students with flexibility in class selection, allowing them to tailor their studies to their individual interests, abilities, and future plans. Students are required to complete six full-credit AICE courses and pass the corresponding examinations for each course. Within the program, there are over 50 subjects from three curriculum areas: mathematics and sciences, languages, and arts and humanities. At least one course and examination must be from each of the three subject areas, as well as the core component, Global Perspectives and Research.

The AICE program uses a point system to award diplomas at three levels - Distinction, Merit, and Pass - based on students' coursework performance and examination scores. Students are required to demonstrate knowledge, understanding, and application. They must also show that they have acquired the skills of analysis, synthesis, and evaluation. Examinations receive passing letter grades ranging from A to E, with A being the highest. The lowest passing grade of E (or a score of 3) is equivalent to a U.S. grade of C or a 3 on an Advanced Placement

examination. Performance below a grade of E receives a grade of U, ungraded, which is not considered as passing. Students must receive a score of E or higher on all of their examinations in order to receive an AICE diploma. Upon successful completion of the AICE program and admission to a college or university, high school students may be awarded up to 45 hours of credit from universities throughout the U.S. and from all public universities and colleges in Florida, based on each subject and examination grade earned.

The following 12 Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) high schools offered Cambridge courses and examinations in 2014-2015:

- American Senior
- G. Holmes Braddock Senior
- Cutler Bay Senior
- Hialeah Gardens Senior
- Center for International Education: A Cambridge Associate School
- Keys Gate Charter High School
- Maritime & Science Technology Academy
- Miami Killian Senior
- Miami Lakes Educational Center
- Miami Norland Senior
- Miami Springs Senior
- Ronald W. Reagan/Doral Senior

There are many M-DCPS students who are not on a Cambridge diploma track, but are earning college credit by taking Cambridge courses and examinations. Of the 12 M-DCPS high schools that offered Cambridge courses and examinations in 2014-2015, five schools offered a full diploma track program and had students who were eligible for AICE diplomas:

- G. Holmes Braddock Senior
- Hialeah Gardens Senior
- Keys Gate Charter High School
- Miami Lakes Educational Center
- Ronald W. Reagan/Doral Senior

This Research Brief includes data on the 12 M-DCPS schools that offered Cambridge courses and examinations in 2014-2015. The number of AICE examinations taken, the percentage of examinations receiving passing scores, and the number and percentage of participating students earning diplomas are provided for 2013-2014 and 2014-2015, across all M-DCPS Cambridge AICE schools.

The reader should note that the tables in this report include only the subject area examinations taken by students at M-DCPS schools, although the AICE program offers courses and

examinations in over 50 subjects. Results are not reported if fewer than 10 examinations were taken.

General Paper is multi-disciplinary subject matter drawn from across the curriculum. The syllabus encourages candidates to make cross-curricular links; develop a maturity of thought; and achieve an understanding and usage of the English language that enables them to express arguments, ideas, and opinions in a reflective and academic manner.

Participation in Cambridge AICE Examinations

- The number of M-DCPS schools offering Cambridge courses and examinations increased from nine in 2013-2014 to 12 in 2014-2015.
- The number of AICE examinations taken by M-DCPS students increased by 30% (from 3,844 in 2013-2014 to 5,008 in 2014-2015).
- In 2014-2015, AICE examinations were taken in 25 different subject areas. The subject areas in which the largest numbers of M-DCPS students took examinations were English Language and History.

Examination Results

- The percentage of AICE examinations receiving passing scores in M-DCPS increased by two percentage points, from 61% in 2013-2014 to 63% in 2014-2015.
- The 2014-2015 subject areas in which the highest percentages of AICE examinations received passing scores were French Language, General Paper, Global Perspectives & Research, Portuguese Language, and Spanish Language. The subject area in which the lowest percentage of examinations received passing scores was Accounting.

Diploma Results

- Grades 11 and 12 students who were enrolled in the Cambridge full diploma track program, met all program requirements, and took the required examinations were eligible to receive AICE diplomas. Districtwide, the number of students eligible to receive AICE diplomas increased by 20% (from 199 students in 2013-2014 to 238 students in 2014-2015).
- A total of 169 M-DCPS students, or 71% of the 238 M-DCPS students enrolled in Cambridge full diploma track programs, received AICE diplomas at the conclusion of the 2014-2015 school year. From 2013-2014 to 2014-2015, the percentage of M-DCPS students receiving AICE diplomas decreased by six percentage points (from 77% to 71%).

- Of the five M-DCPS schools offering full diploma track programs, G. Holmes Braddock Senior and Ronald W. Reagan/Doral Senior had the highest percentages of eligible students receiving AICE diplomas (96% at each school), followed by Hialeah Gardens Senior (45%), Miami Lakes Educational Center (44%), and Keys Gate Charter High School (26%).
- The percentage of students receiving diplomas increased by 11 percentage points at G. Holmes Braddock Senior and by four percentage points at Ronald W. Reagan/Doral Senior. The percentage of students receiving diplomas decreased by 19 percentage points at Miami Lakes Educational Center and by 18 percentage points at Hialeah Gardens Senior. The 2014-2015 school year was the first year students attending Keys Gate Charter High School were eligible for AICE diplomas.

**Table 1. Number of Students Taking Cambridge AICE Examinations
and Percent Passing Examinations by Subject Area,
2013-2014 and 2014-2015
M-DCPS, All Cambridge AICE Schools Combined**

Subject Area	# of Exams Taken		% of Exams Passed	
	2013-2014	2014-2015	2013-2014	2014-2015
Accounting	0	31	N/A	0%
Art and Design	138	55	38%	49%
Biology	139	168	35%	35%
Business Studies	34	6	6%	N/A
Chemistry	52	112	56%	47%
Computer Science	0	9	N/A	N/A
Economics	0	35	N/A	71%
English Language	459	608	82%	85%
English Literature	293	289	65%	66%
Environmental Management	129	150	94%	77%
French Language	34	45	100%	96%
General Paper	487	363	90%	93%
Geography	12	0	0%	N/A
Global Perspectives & Research	91	273	78%	98%
Global Perspectives	0	54	N/A	74%
History	535	795	45%	44%
Marine Science	241	280	39%	49%
Mathematics	298	267	31%	43%
Music	11	13	73%	54%
Physics	76	131	57%	37%
Portuguese Language	14	31	100%	100%
Psychology	120	441	68%	44%
Sociology	66	158	52%	33%
Spanish Language	138	234	99%	93%
Spanish Literature	9	0	N/A	N/A
Thinking Skills	416	383	48%	75%
Travel/Tourism	52	77	56%	34%
Total, All Subjects	3844	5008	61%	63%

**Table 2. Number and Percent of Students Receiving Cambridge AICE Diplomas,
by School and M-DCPS Overall,
2013-2014 and 2014-2015**

School	Number of Students Eligible for AICE Diplomas		Number of Students Receiving AICE Diplomas		Percent of Students Receiving AICE Diplomas	
	2013-2014	2014-2015	2013-2014	2014-2015	2013-2014	2014-2015
Keys Gate Charter	N/A	23	N/A	6	N/A	N/A
G. Holmes Braddock Senior	41	49	35	47	85%	96%
Hialeah Gardens	65	53	41	24	63%	45%
Miami Lakes Educational Center	30	32	19	14	63%	44%
Ronald W. Reagan/Doral Senior	63	81	58	78	92%	96%
Total, All Cambridge AICE Schools	199	238	153	169	77%	71%

Summary

This Research Brief summarized the performance of M-DCPS students participating in the Cambridge AICE program. Cambridge courses and examinations were available at a total of 12 M-DCPS schools, with three of the 12 schools offering the program for the first time in 2014-2015. The number of Cambridge AICE examinations taken by M-DCPS students increased by 30% from 2013-2014 to 2014-2015. M-DCPS students took 5,008 AICE examinations in 25 subject areas in 2014-2015. The percentage of AICE examinations receiving passing scores in M-DCPS increased by two percentage points, from 61% in 2013-2014 to 63% in 2014-2015. Overall, the percentage of eligible M-DCPS students receiving a Cambridge AICE diploma decreased by six percentage points, from 77% in 2013-2014 to 71% in 2014-2015.