

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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Mayor Vincent C. Gray Announces 2013 DC CAS Results Showing Strongest Growth in Scores Since 2008

Mayor Says Steady Gains Underscore Need to Stay the Course in Education Reform

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) – Mayor Vincent C. Gray today announced that students in the District’s public schools made significant gains in their performance on the 2013 District of Columbia Comprehensive Assessment System exam (DC CAS). According to results released by the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE), the 2013 scores show statewide increases of 3.9 percentage points in math and 4.1 percentage points in reading – the largest gains since 2008.

The results showed increases across all tested subjects, all grade levels, and all sub-groups. Kelly Miller Middle School in Ward 7, where the Mayor and other officials made the announcement, scored particularly impressive gains with an overall increase of 14 percentage points.

“The 2013 DC CAS results are a strong indication that we are on the right course in our work to transform public education in the District of Columbia,” Mayor Gray said. ***“We know we have much more to do, but today we celebrate the hard work by our students, teachers and administrators reflected in these results. I am committed to accelerating the progress we have made by scaling up what’s working and continuing to invest in our schools.”***

Students in both D.C. Public Schools (DCPS) and the District’s public charter schools posted growth across the board. DCPS students showed gains in math (up 3.6 percentage points from 2012), reading (4.0 percentage points), science (1.8 percentage points), and composition (4.4 percentage points).

“Today, everyone can see what I’ve long known – our educators are working hard and our students are learning,” said DCPS Chancellor Kaya Henderson. “Our approach, with great educators in every building and strong curriculum in all our schools, is working and we’re on the right track. I’m very proud of our progress, I’m encouraged by our gains and I’m excited for the work ahead.”

Charter school students showed annual gains of 3.9 percentage points in math, 3.9 percentage points in reading, 0.5 percentage points in science, and 3.6 percentage points in composition. “We are proud of the continued progress of public charter schools in the District,” said D.C. Public Charter School Board Chair John H. “Skip” McKoy. “The increases in math of 11.3 percentage points for English-language learners and 5.0 percentage points for students with disabilities show that public charter schools are improving outcomes for students with some of the greatest needs.”

Interim State Superintendent of Education Emily Durso also highlighted the progress made among sub-groups. “While the results show growth for all students, I am particularly pleased that the growth of our African-American and Hispanic students, our English-language learners, and our students with disabilities all outpaced that of their peers.” Notable gains were made in math by students with disabilities (4.6 percentage points) and reading by Hispanic students (5.3 percentage points).

The Mayor was joined by school leaders from KIPP DC and Eagle public charter schools, along with staff from Tubman Elementary and Jefferson Middle. “This is great news for our city,” said Deputy Mayor Abigail Smith. “We have a long way to go, but parents should feel good about the direction of public education in the District. These results show that both DCPS and public charter schools are making strides towards our goal of great public schools for all students.”

The 2013 DC CAS statewide exam was administered April 22-May 3 at 195 schools and was taken by 32,838 students.

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