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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Dr. Joseph P. Burke, Superintendent 293-1400 ext. 53323

Date: June 8, 2011

### **Monroe County Schools Algebra I End-of-Course (EOC) Assessment Results**

**KEY WEST, FL** - The Commissioner of Education and Superintendent Dr. Joseph Burke would like to commend Monroe County's outstanding Algebra 1 teachers for their work this year to help students be successful in this critical course. Algebra 1 is widely considered as one of the most important gatekeeper courses for a pathway to college or a career certification program, and the skills it provides are invaluable throughout life.

Today's release of Algebra 1 EOC results represents a significant milestone in Florida's education improvement efforts for two main reasons. First, these exams are measuring student performance on very clear, course-specific Algebra 1 content standards that will allow our teachers to study results, benchmark their performance and refine their instructional approaches as necessary. Second, this EOC assessment was given to students almost entirely via computer, representing a large-scale, very successful statewide introduction to computer-based testing, meaning more time for our students to learn the important algebra content and a quicker turnaround for results in the years ahead.

Since this is a transition year for this new EOC assessment, results are being reported on a special scale known as a T-score scale of 20-80. The statewide average was 49, while Monroe County's average score was 52. Statewide 35% of student results were in the top third of scores, while 47% of students in Monroe County scored in the top third of the state. This places Monroe County within the top ten school districts in the state.

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