

RESEARCH BRIEF

OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH

VOLUME 11 NUMBER 1

DECEMBER 2001

STATEWIDE ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES

The purpose of this brief is to update the status of the Statewide Accountability Measures passed by the 1991 Florida Legislature and to compare SPC's 2000-01 performance on each measure with the statewide performance. Section 240.324, F.S. directs that a management and accountability process be implemented that will provide for the "...ongoing improvement and assessment of the improvement of the quality and efficiency of the State Community College System." The areas to be addressed were specified in law. There are five statewide measures of accountability, some with more than one part. The measures are:

- enrollment of students entering the college in relation to the previous year's high school graduates, retention of students (graduated or still enrolled), and student success (graduated, still enrolled, or left in good standing);
- performance of A. A. degree transfers in the State University System;
- passing rates of students who completed vocational programs on state licensure tests and placement in related occupations;
- the success of students who are required to take college preparatory courses (completion of prep courses, retention and success in college credit programs); and
- performance of students on the College Level Academic Skills Test (CLAST) after they have completed 60 credit hours at the college.

The accountability outcome measures, the statewide benchmarks, SPC's target, SPC's current performance, and the current statewide performance are described below.

INSTITUTIONAL PERFORMANCE

Outcome Measure 1:

Enrollment/Retention/Success

a. Enrollment

Measure--This measure addresses the percentage of high school graduates in one year from the college service area (Pinellas County) who enroll in the college (SPC) the following year by ethnic category.

State Benchmark--To increase the percentage of previous year high school graduate minority student enrollments until such enrollments equal the previous years' high school graduates for each category.

SPC Target--Increase black enrollment as a percent of prior year high school graduates to 35%.

SPC Performance--The percentage of SPC enrollees for three ethnic groups was greater than the prior year's graduates (Hispanic, Asian and American Indian). For black students, the percentage of SPC enrollees was less than the prior year Pinellas County high school graduates. This enrollment pattern was similar to the systemwide pattern. SPC's black student enrollment of 28.8% was below the college's 35% target. However, for 1998-99, the percent of enrollees to prior year graduates was greater for SPC (31.6%) than the statewide average (28.4%) for all categories. Table 1 shows a two year comparison of SPC's first-time-in-college students to Pinellas County graduates and for all community college's compared to all county public high graduates from the previous year by ethnicity.

Table 1
PRIOR YEAR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES ENROLLMENT

	White		Black		Hispanic		Asian		Indian		Total	
	Number	Percent of Total	Number	Percent of Total	Number	Percent of Total	Number	Percent of Total	Number	Percent of Total	Number	Percent of Total
Reporting year 1997-98												
St. Petersburg College												
Number of High School Graduates	3,708	81.57	548	12.05	126	2.77	157	3.45	7	0.15	4,546	4.91
Number of First-Time-In College	1,261	82.04	150	9.76	59	3.84	63	4.10	4	0.26	1,537	5.91
Percent Pool		34.01		27.37		46.83		40.13		57.14		33.81
State-Wide												
Number of High School Graduates	56,767	61.32	19,437	21.00	13,520	14.61	2,630	2.84	215	0.23	92,569	
Number of First-Time-In College	15,223	58.51	4,589	17.64	5,298	20.36	771	2.96	103	0.40	26,016	
Percent Pool		26.82		23.61		39.19		29.32		47.91		28.10
Reporting year 1998-99												
St. Petersburg College												
Number of High School Graduates	3,630	80.10	594	13.11	135	2.98	162	3.57	4	0.09	4,532	4.73
Number of First-Time-In College	1,131	78.87	171	11.92	64	4.46	56	3.91	12	0.84	1,434	5.28
Percent Pool		31.16		28.79		47.4		34.57		100.00		31.64
State-Wide												
Number of High School Graduates	58,972	61.57	19,969	20.85	13,749	14.35	2,718	2.84	191	0.20	95,786	
Number of First-Time-In College	16,044	59.07	4,720	17.38	5,384	19.82	814	3.00	116	0.43	27,163	
Percent Pool		27.21		23.64		39.16		29.95		60.73		28.36

b. Retention

Measure--Described are the number and percentage of students, by ethnicity and full-time/part-time status, seeking A.A./A.S. degrees or Postsecondary Vocational Certificates (PSVC) who have graduated or who are enrolled after four years from the date of initial enrollment (definition of retention). Initial enrollment is defined as 18 college credit hours earned toward a degree or 9 hours earned toward a certificate.

State Benchmark--To retain or graduate at least 50% of the part-time students four years after the date of initial enrollment. To retain or graduate at least 70% of the full-time students four years after the date of initial enrollment.

SPC Target--To retain or graduate 65% of the full-time A.A. and A.S. students 4 years after initial enrollment

SPC Performance--State generated data shows 66.3% (793 AA/AS/PSVC students) of the Fall 1996 -- Spring 2000 cohort were "retained" (graduated or still enrolled) at SPC. Systemwide the retention rate for this cohort was 62.7% (13,466 AA/AS/PSVC students). The Retention graph provides a 2-year comparison of percentages of SPC students who graduated or who are enrolled after four years from the initial enrollment to the Statewide comparable data.

c. Success

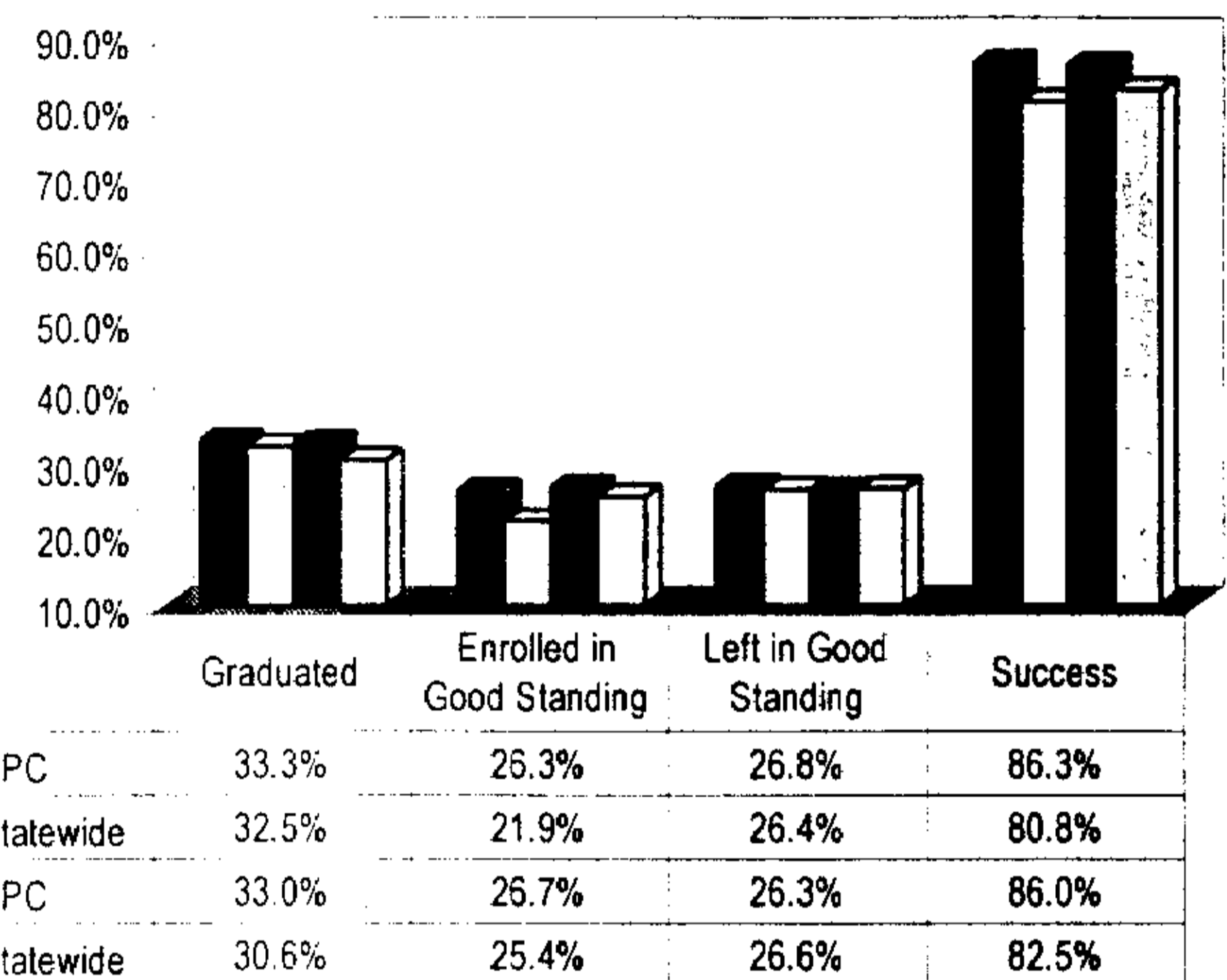
Measure--Addressed are the number and percentage of students, by ethnicity, seeking A.A./A.S. degrees or PSVC who have graduated, are enrolled in good standing, or who left in good standing after four years from the initial enrollment.

State Benchmark--Eighty percent (80%) of students will have graduated, been retained in good standing or left in good standing four years after the date of initial enrollment.

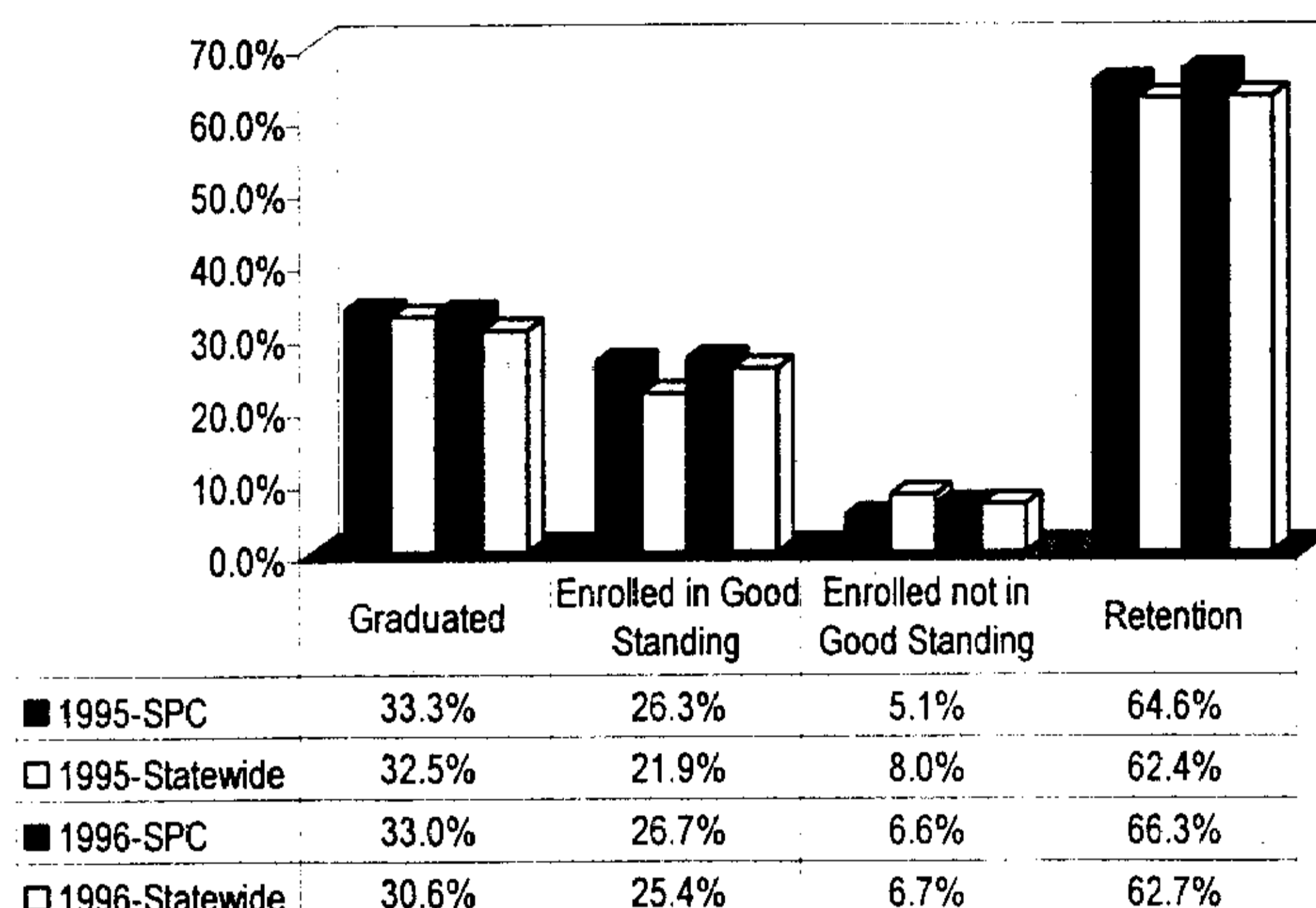
SPC Target--Ninety percent (90%) of A.A./A.S. degree and PSV Certificate students will have graduated, been retained in good standing or will have left in good standing four years after initial enrollment.

SPC Performance-- SPC's success rate of 86.0% for A.A./A.S. degree and PSV Certificate students was higher than the statewide average of 82.5%. The Success graph compares the percentage of SPC students who graduated, are enrolled in good standing, or who left in good standing after four years from the initial enrollment to the analogous statewide data.

Success (Fall)



Retention (Fall)



Outcome Measure 2:

A. A. Degree Transfer Performance

Measure--Computed is the grade point average (GPA) of A. A. degree students, who transfer to a State University in Florida, segmented by university, college preparatory status and ethnic category.

State Benchmark--At least 70% of the A. A. degree students transferring to a state university will perform at a GPA of 2.5 or higher.

SPC Target--At least 70% of the A.A. degree students who have transferred to the State University System will perform at a GPA ≥ 2.5 or higher.

SPC Performance--The mean GPA 2.94 for SPC's students in the SUS was slightly higher than the statewide GPA of 2.87. Statewide 72.3% of the A. A. degree transfers earned GPA's ≥ 2.5 , while 75.3% of SPC students met that standard. There was variation by remediation status, a GPA ≥ 2.5 was earned by 75.7% of SPC students not remediated and 75.0% of those who were remediated. Table 2 compares the percentage of SPC students transferring to the state universities in 1997-98, who earned a GPA of 2.5 or more to the statewide community college average by ethnic category.

Table 2
ASSOCIATE IN ARTS DEGREE TRANSFER PERFORMANCE

	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian	Indian	Total
Reporting year 1997-98						
St. Petersburg College						
Number of Graduates in SUS	661	37	26	53	5	782
Mean GPA	2.97	2.74	2.83	2.72	2.76	2.94
Number with GPA's ≥ 2.5	507	27	19	32	4	589
Percent with GKPA's ≥ 2.5	76.70%	72.9%	73.08%	60.38%	80.0%	75.32%
State-Wide						
Number of Graduates in SUS	7,381	1,154	1,969	525	40	11,083
Mean GPA	2.95	2.63	2.76	2.79	2.88	2.87
Number with GPA's ≥ 2.5	5,558	719	1,338	355	30	8,010
Percent with GKPA's ≥ 2.5	75.30%	62.31%	67.95%	67.62%	75.00%	72.27%

Outcome Measure 3:

State Licensure Passing Rates/ Vocational Program Placements

a. State Licensure Passing Rates

Measure--For those vocational programs that prepare students to sit for state licensure exams required for students to enter the profession, the number of students tested and the percent passing the examination are computed.

State Benchmark--At least 90% of all students sitting for a licensure exam will pass.

SPC Target--Overall 85% of SPC students who sit for licensure exams will pass.

SPC Performance--SPC students perform well on state licensure examinations. The overall pass rate for 1998-99 was 84.5% and the pass rate for each exam was 73% or higher. The overall pass rate statewide for programs offered by SPC was 82.7%; for all community college programs with licensure requirements the statewide pass rate was 82.7%. Below Table 3 compares SPC passing rates to the statewide percentages in programs at the college for a two-year timeframe.

Table 3
Licensure Passing Rates

	Dental Hygiene	Funeral Services	EMT	Paramedic	Physical Therapy	Radiography	Respiratory	Nursing
Reporting year 1997-98								
St. Petersburg College	80.0%	88.5%	92.4%	74.2%	86.5%	NA	92.8%	82.7%
Statewide	84.5%	NA	91.1%	72.1%	NA	NA	NA	88.4%
Reporting year 1998-99								
St. Petersburg College	84.5%	92.6%	100.0%	73.9%	84.2%	95.2%	73.3%	80.7%
Statewide	82.5%	NA	89.9%	65.3%	NA	96.5%	79.9%	83.5%

b. Placement Rates

Measure--This measure describes the number and percentage of students who complete an A.S. degree or PSV Certificate program or who leave the program and are employed in a job related to their instruction. Students are considered "placed" if they are found the following year to be: (1) continuing their education in a Florida community college or state university, (2) working a field related to their education, or (3) in the military. Placement rate was chosen only for programs with five or more completers in the placement pool.

State Benchmark--At least 90% of all students who complete a vocational program will be placed.

SPC Target--At least 90% of all students who complete an SPC vocational program will be placed.

SPC Performance--The FETPIP 1997-98 data shows that 95.2% of 688 SPC students met the standard, (who were found) were placed.

Outcome Measure 4:

College Preparatory Success

a. College Prep Course Success

Measure--This measure addresses the number and percentage of students who tested into college preparatory courses, by subject area, based on scores on the entrance exam. Of these students, the report shows how many enrolled in a college preparatory course (for the area needed) and those who passed the highest level college preparatory course (for that area) within two years to meet the standards for admission into college level courses.

State Benchmark--To have students in need of remediation pass the highest-level college preparatory course at the following rates: reading-65%, writing-68% and math-50%.

SPC Target--To have students in need of remediation pass the highest-level college preparatory course at the following rates: reading-70%, writing-70% and math-50%.

SPC Performance--For the Fall 1997 cohort success rate for students who tested into college preparatory courses and who passed the highest level requirement by subject area within two years was lower for SPC mathematics student 47.8% than the statewide average 50.8%, the reverse was true for reading and writing. However, the Fall 1996 data showed the percentages for SPC were slightly higher in all subject areas. The reading pass rate for SPC students of 76.2% was higher than the statewide average of 66.0%, the SPC target of 70%, and the statewide goal of 65%. In writing the SPC pass rate of 66.0% compared favorably to the statewide average of 61.6%. The Table compares the percentage of SPC students completing remedial course requirements to the statewide average by subject area for the Fall 1996-97 cohort tracked through Summer 1998-99.

Table 4
College Preparatory Success Rates

	Reading	Writing	Math
Fall 1996 through Summer 1998			
St. Petersburg College	76.2%	66.0%	46.7%
Statewide	66.0%	61.6%	44.1%
Fall 1997 through Summer 1999			
St. Petersburg College	72.4%	70.2%	47.8%
Statewide	68.1%	65.3%	50.8%

b. Retention Rate of College Prep Students

Measure--Described is the status of degree students who have completed their college preparatory requirements and who have graduated, are enrolled in good standing, or enrolled not in good standing four years after initial enrollment. Initial enrollment is defined as having completed 18 college credits towards an A.A. or A.S. degree.

State Benchmark--To retain or graduate at least 50% of the part-time students four years after the date of initial enrollment in college level courses. To retain or graduate at least 70% of the full-time students four years after the date of initial enrollment. Full-time students are those who attended full-time during their first college semester and at least one other semester.

SPC Target--To retain or to graduate at least 70% of the full-time students four years after the date of initial enrollment.

SPC Performance--Based on the Fall 1996 cohort, SPC's percentage 65.1% of students who graduated or enrolled is slightly less than the statewide percentage of 65.3%. Table 4 compares the percentage of SPC students who graduated or who are enrolled after four years from the initial enrollment to the statewide comparable data. In addition, as shown in the Table the retention rate for the last two years decrease slightly by .8%

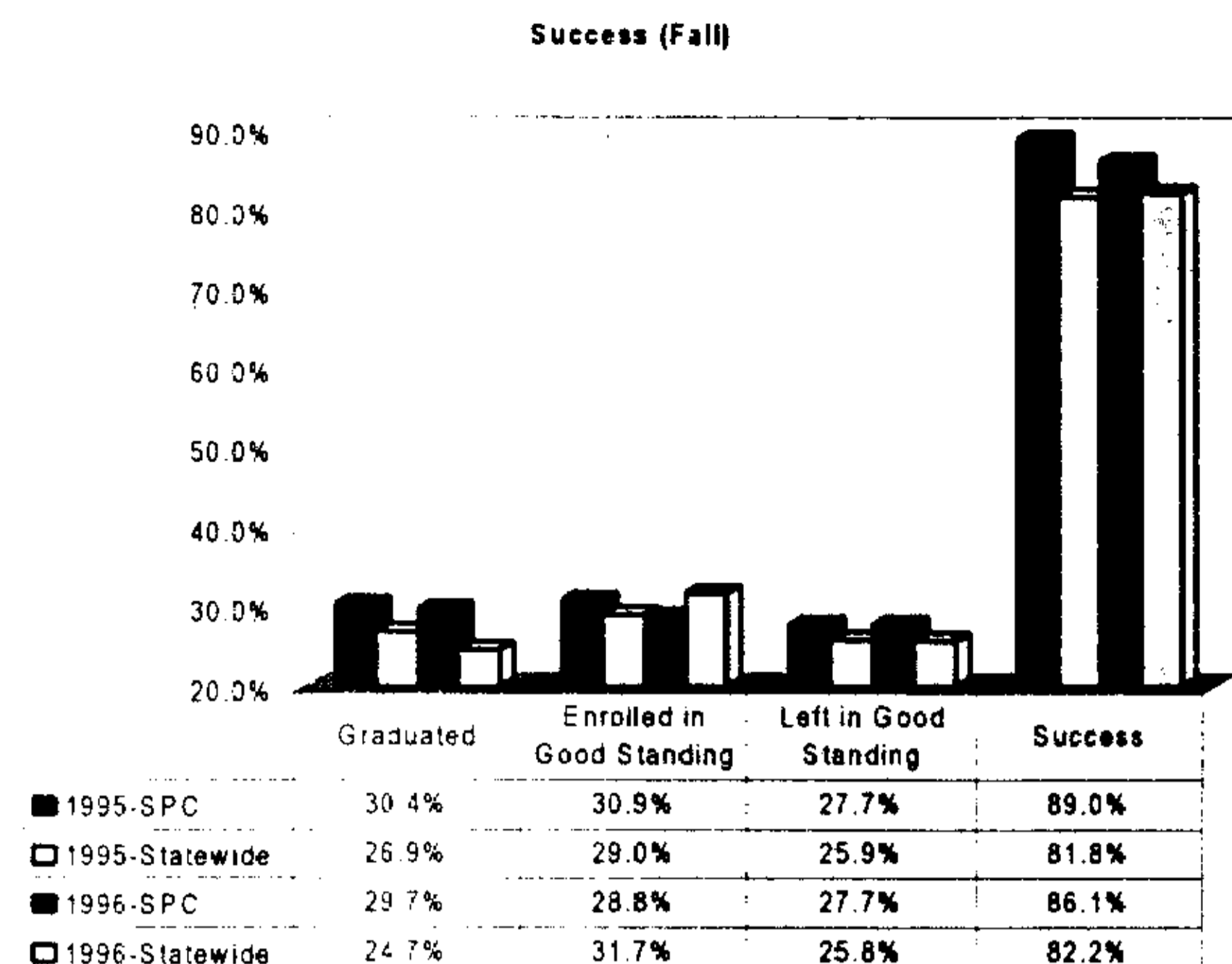
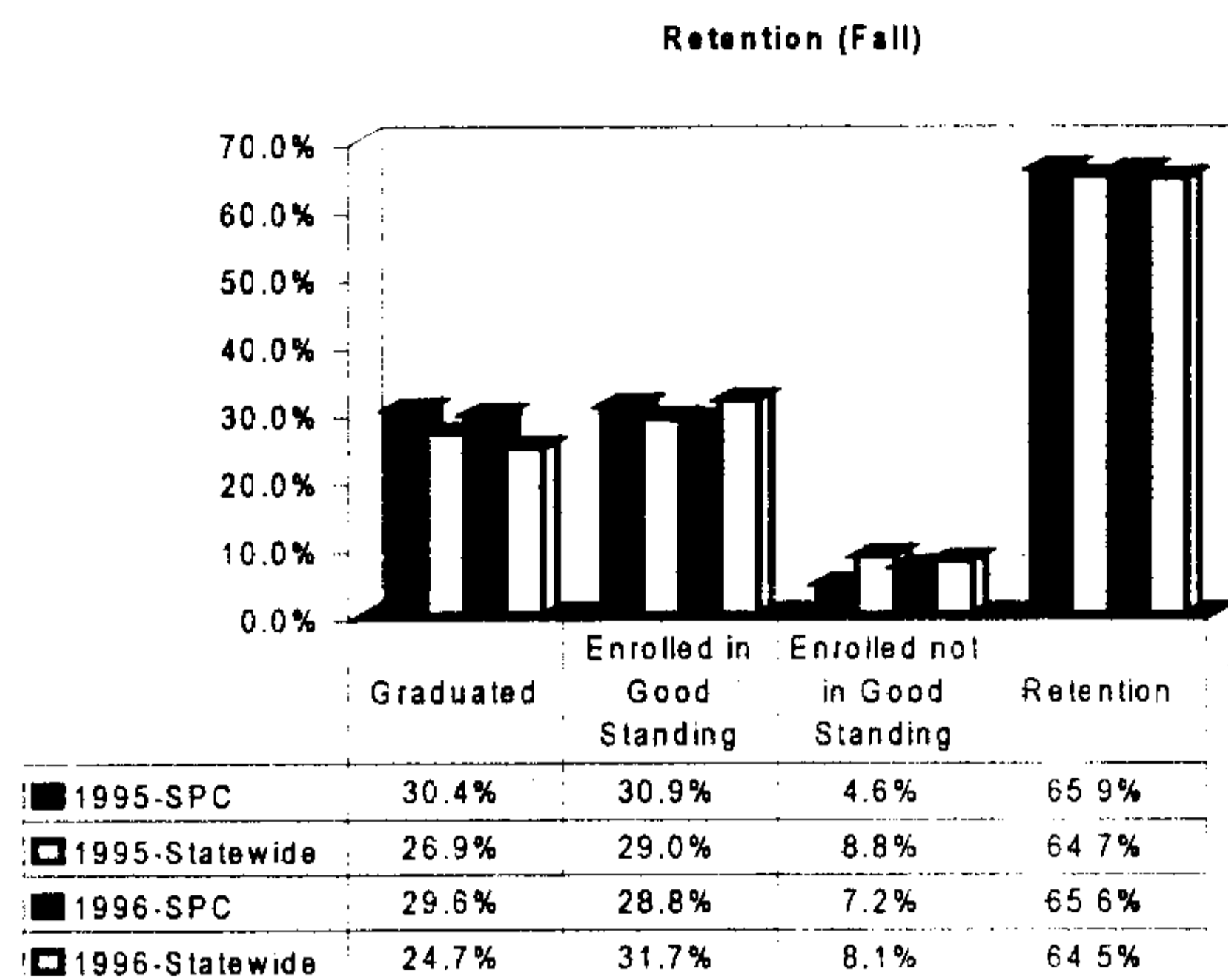
c. Success Rate of College Prep Student

Measure--This measure addresses the number and percentage of students who have completed their college preparatory requirements and who have graduated, or are enrolled or left in good standing four years after initial enrollment. Initial enrollment is defined as having completed 18 college credits toward the degree.

State Benchmark--To graduate, retain in good standing or to have left in good standing at least 75% of the students four years after the date of initial enrollment in college level courses.

SPC Target--To graduate, to have enrolled or left in good standing at least 80% of the degree students four years after the date of initial enrollment.

SPC Performance--Based on the Fall 1996 cohort, 86.1% of SPC students were graduated, enrolled or left in good standing compared to 82.2% of statewide students. The graph compares the percentage of SPC students who graduated, are enrolled in good standing, or who left in good standing to the statewide comparable data.



Outcome Measure 5: CLAST Performance

Measure--Described are the number and percentage of students who have passed CLAST after they have completed 60 or more college credit hours, segmented by ethnicity and participation in college preparatory courses.

State Benchmark--To have at least 80% of all students who have completed 60 credit hours pass all parts of CLAST (overall), including 68% for college prep students and 90% for non-college prep students.

SPC Target--To have at least 75% of all students who have completed 60 credit hours pass all parts of CLAST, including 80% for college prep students and 80% for non-college prep students. Scores and goals have been decreased to reflect the exemptions given to higher achieving students.

SPC Performance--SPC's overall passing rate for all four tests was 88.6%, including 83.2% of students with college prep work and 96.1% of students with no college prep work. This compares favorably to the statewide overall pass rate of 81.7%, including 74.0% of students with college prep work and 90.5% of students with no college prep work. The table below compares SPC's overall passing rates to the statewide percentages by subject area for both 1997-98 and 1998-99.

**Table 5
CLAST Performance**

	Reading	English	Math	Essay
1997-98				
St. Petersburg J. C.	98.08%	96.03%	95.07%	90.39%
Statewide	95.09%	94.68%	89.21%	96.25%
1998-99				
St. Petersburg J. C.	97.39%	96.43%	92.93%	97.81%
Statewide	93.99%	93.91%	87.40%	96.05%

Summary

SPC's continues to meet or exceed the statewide performances for all accountability measures except for success of students in need of remediation in passing the highest-level college preparatory mathematics class. The difference between the statewide average rate and SPC's for A.A. degree transfers was exceptionally modest. While statewide 72.3% of the A.A. degree transfers earned GPA are greater than or equal to 2.50, 75.3% of SPC transfers met that standard. The statewide average GPA was 2.87 compared to 2.94 earned by SPC.

While the success rate for students who tested into college preparatory courses and who passed the highest level requirement by subject area within two years, was lower for SPC mathematics students (47.8%) than the statewide average (50.7%), the reverse was true for reading and writing. The reading pass rate for SPC students of 72.4% was higher than the statewide average (68.1%) and both the SPC target of 70% and statewide goal of 65%. In writing the SPC pass rate of 70.2% compared favorably to the statewide average of 65.3%.

SPC's program placement rates of A.S. degree and vocational certificate program completers continues to be high with SPC's 1997-98 graduates placement rate at 95.2%. Statewide data no longer available for comparison.

For the cohort of A.A./A.S. degree students whose fourth year of attendance ended in Spring 2000, the retention rate was 66.3% compared to 63.6% statewide. For students who had required college preparatory courses, the retention rate of SPC students was 65.1% compared to 65.3% statewide.

For the cohort of A.A./A.S. degree students whose fourth year of attendance at SPC ended in Spring 2000, the success rate was 86.0% compared to the statewide success rate of 74.7%. For students who had required college preparatory courses, SPC's student success rate was 86.1% compared to a statewide average of 73.5%.

For students who completed 60 or more college-level credits, the percentage that passed all CLAST tests individually and in total was higher than the statewide average. The percentage of students passing all four subtests was exceptionally notable (SPC 88.6% vs. Statewide 81.7%).