

## 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 SPJC's 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. A Statewide Accountability Implementation Committee was convened to implement the necessary indicators and initiatives. 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.

During 1992, indicators to implement the measures were developed, timelines for the collection of data were established, draft reports were prepared, and an interim report was submitted to the Legislature. During 1993 the indicators were refined; institutions submitted college-specific accountability plans; and systemwide accountability goals and benchmarks were established. These linked the accountability process with the Community College Master Plan; an overall strategy for oversight of accountability was established and a systemwide report was submitted to the Legislature. During 1994 each college submitted a plan showing its progress towards meeting the measures and a second systemwide report was submitted to the Legislature. Annually this process has been repeated; that is, the Division of Community Colleges generates data for each measure, the colleges review their own figures, and a statewide annual report is generated by the Division and submitted to the Legislature. The accountability outcome measures, the statewide benchmarks, SPJC's target, SPJC's current performance, and the current statewide performance are described below.

## INSTITUTIONAL PERFORMANCE

### Outcome Measure 1: Enrollment/Retention/Success

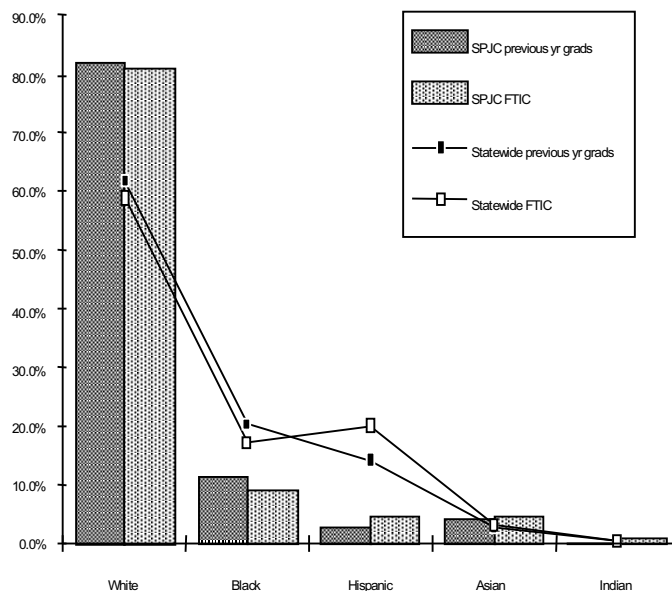
#### a. Enrollment

**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 (SPJC) 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.

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

**SPJC Performance**--The percentage of SPJC enrollees for three ethnic groups was greater than the prior year's graduates (Hispanic, Asian, and American Indian). For white and black students, the percentage of SPJC enrollees was less than the prior year Pinellas County high school graduates. This enrollment pattern was similar to the systemwide pattern. SPJC's black student enrollment of 27.8% is below the college's 35% target. However, the percent of enrollees to prior year graduates is greater for SPJC (35.9%) than the statewide average (30.6%) for all categories. The graph compares on the same axis the percentage of 1995-96 college enrollees to the previous year's high school graduates from Florida public schools by ethnicity. The bar graph shows SPJC's first-time-in-college students to Pinellas County graduates the previous year; the line graph compares the same information for all community college's compared to all county public high grads from the previous year.



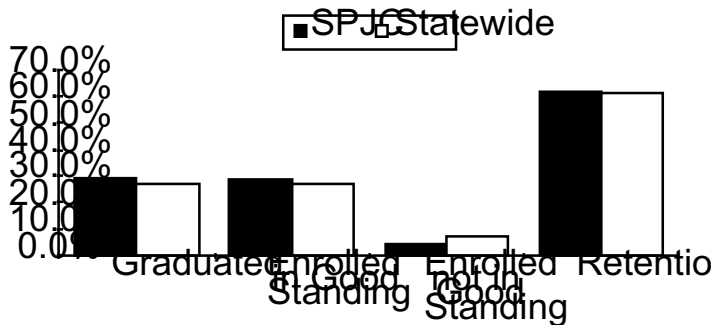
#### b. Retention

**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.

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

**SPJC Performance**--State generated data shows 61.8% (775 AA/AS/PSVC students) of the Fall 1993 -- Spring 1997 cohort were "retained" (graduated or still enrolled) at SPJC. Systemwide the retention rate for this cohort was 61.0% (11,744 AA/AS/PSVC students). The graph compares the percentage of SPJC students who graduated or who are enrolled after four years from the initial enrollment to the Statewide comparable data.



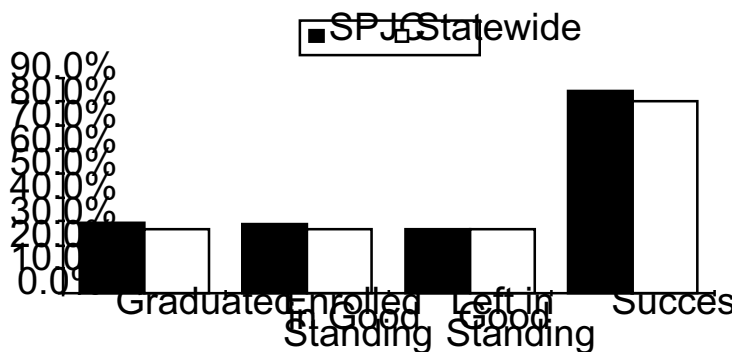
### c. Success

**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.

**SPJC 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.

**SPJC Performance**--The graph compares the percentage of SPJC 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. SPJC's success rate of 84.5% for A.A./A.S. degree and PSV Certificate students is higher than the statewide average of 80.1%.



### Outcome Measure 2:

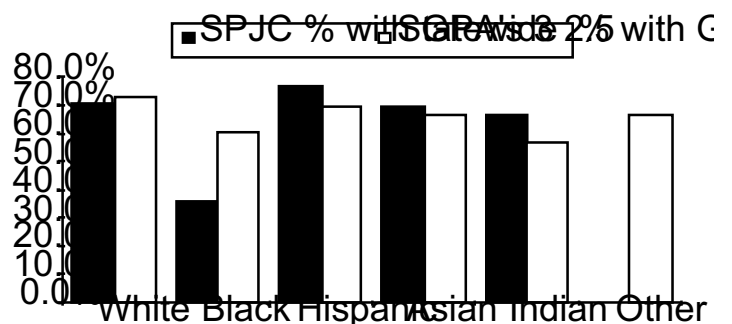
#### A. A. Degree Transfer Performance

**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.

**SPJC Target**--At least 70% of the A.A. degree students who have transferred to the State University System will perform at a GPA  $\geq$  2.5 or higher.

**SPJC Performance**--The differences between the statewide average rates and SPJC's for AA degree transfers was exceptionally modest. While statewide 71.2% of the A. A. degree transfers earned GPA's  $\geq$  2.5, 69.9% of SPJC students met the standard. Moreover, 72.2% of those students who were not remediated at SPJC and 67.9% of those who were remediated have earned a GPA  $\geq$  2.5. The graph compares the percentage of SPJC students transferring to the state universities in 1994-95, who earned a GPA of 2.5 or more to the statewide community college average by ethnic category.



### Outcome Measure 3:

#### State Licensure Passing Rates/ Vocational Program Placements

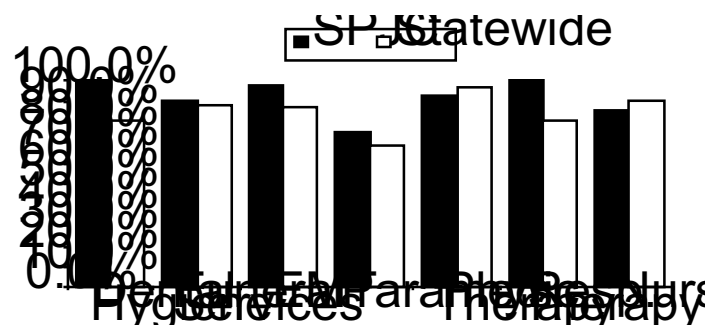
##### a. State Licensure Passing Rates

**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.

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

**SPJC Performance**--SPJC students perform well on state licensure examinations. The overall pass rate for 1995-96 was 87.2% and the pass rate for each exam was 75% or higher. The overall pass rate statewide for programs offered by SPJC was 86.5% for all community college programs with licensure requirements the statewide pass rate was 85.0%. The graph compares SPJC passing rates to the statewide percentages in programs at the college.



**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.

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

**SPJC Performance**--Statewide 1994-95 data shows that 88.5% of 652 SPJC students (who were found) were placed. This compares statewide to 83.9% who completed the same programs as offered by SPJC. Statewide in all programs offered at community colleges the placement rate was 80.3% student completers.

**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%.

**SPJC 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%.

**SPJC Performance**--For the Fall 1994 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 SPJC mathematics student 38% than the statewide average 43.1%, the reverse was true for reading and writing. The reading pass rate for SPJC students of 72.6% was higher than the statewide average 59.0% and both the SPJC target of 70% and statewide goal of 65%. In writing the SPJC pass rate of 67.0% compared favorable to the statewide average of 59.0%. The graph compares the number of FTIC students in Fall 1994 taking a placement exam, and the number who failed, to the number enrolling in remedial courses and passing within two years, by subject area, for SPJC and statewide. The graph compares the percentage of SPJC students completing remedial course requirements to the statewide average by subject area for the Fall 1994 cohort tracked through Summer 1996.



**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.

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

**SPJC Performance**--Based on the Fall 1993 cohort, 63.4% of SPJC students were graduated or enrolled compared to 63.2% of statewide degree students. The graph compares the percentage of SPJC students who graduated or who are enrolled after four years from the initial enrollment to the statewide comparable data.



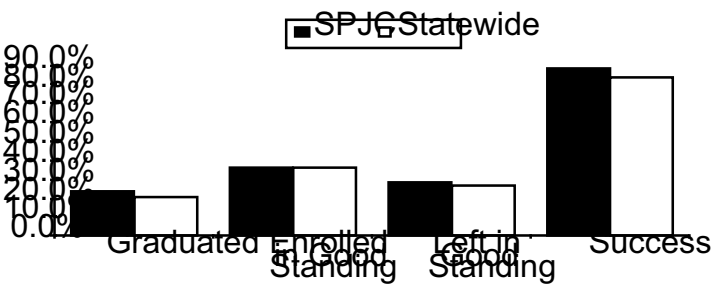
**c. Success Rate of College Prep Students**

**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.

**SPJC 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.

**SPJC Performance**--Based on the Fall 1993 cohort, 88.0% of SPJC students were graduated, enrolled or left in good standing compared to 83.3% of statewide degree students. The graph compares the percentage of SPJC 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.

SPJC 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.

SPJC Performance--SPJC's overall passing rate for all four tests was 77.8%, including 69.7% of students with college prep work and 90.4% of students with no college prep work. This compares favorably to the statewide overall pass rate of 71.8%, including 59.2% of students with college prep work and 84.6% of students with no college prep work. The graph below compares SPJC's overall passing rates to the statewide percentages by subject area for 1995-96.



**Summary**

SPJC's current performance meets or exceeds the statewide performances for all accountability measures except A.A. degree transfers and 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 SPJC's for A.A. degree transfers was exceptionally modest. While statewide 71.2% of the A.A. degree transfers earned GPA's greater than or equal to 2.50, 69.9% of SPJC transfers met that standard. On the other hand, the statewide average GPA for all A. A. degree transfers was identical to that for SPJC transfers (2.85).

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 SPJC mathematics students (38.0%) than the statewide average (43.1%), the reverse was true for reading and writing. The reading pass rate for SPJC students of 72.6% was higher than the statewide average (59%) and both the SPJC target of 70% and statewide goal of 65%. In writing the SPJC pass rate of 67.0% compared favorably to the statewide average of 59.0%.

Several areas of improvement have been realized over last year. The most notable is in the area of state licensing examination pass rates. While SPJC met its own target with respect to state licensing examination pass rates (85% overall pass rate) in 1996-97, its overall pass rate was less than the statewide average. In 1997-98, SPJC's pass rate of 87.2% exceeded the statewide average of 86.5% in programs offered by SPJC and the statewide average of 85.0% in all community college programs with licensing requirements.

For the cohort of A.A./A.S. degree students whose fourth year of attendance ended in Spring 1997, the retention rate was 61.8%. For students who completed all college preparatory requirements and earned at least 18 college-level credits the rate was 63.4%. For both groups of students, SPJC's retention rates were higher than the statewide average.

For the cohort of A.A./A.S. degree students whose fourth year of attendance at SPJC ended in Spring 1997, the success rate was 84.5% compared to the statewide success rate of 80.1%. For students who completed all college preparatory requirements and earned at least 18 college-level credits, SPJC's success percentage was 88.0% compared to the statewide rate of 83.3%. SPJC's success rate for students who have completed college preparatory requirements has increased for the last three years and has been consistently better than the statewide average.