

Strategies for solving word problems:

1. Underline the question – you need to know what is being asked
2. Think about how to solve the problem – which process, operations, equations, or formulas you'll need to use
3. Re-read the problem completely.
4. Draw a picture or diagram if appropriate.
5. Circle key words that will help guide your problem solving process.
6. Solve the problem and determine if the solution makes sense.
7. Check your work.

Test taking strategies:

1. Practice using the online tools.
2. Organize your work folder and work out problems completely.
3. Don't stay on a question too long. If you can't think about how to begin, flag the question and move to another question. Often a different question will help you remember how to solve one you've flagged.
4. Don't leave questions blank.

Resources

Florida Standards Assessments Portal: www.fsassessments.org (Use Chrome or Firefox)

FSA Training Tests: <http://fsassessments.org/students-and-families/training-tests/> (Use Chrome or Firefox)

FSA Frequently Asked Questions: <http://fsassessments.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/2014-2015-Assessment-Accommodations-FAQ.pdf>

FSA Blueprints: www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/depts/is/math/ (Use Internet Explorer)

About the Florida Standards (FLDOE): <http://www.fldoe.org/academics/standards/florida-standards/about.stml>

PARCC Practice Test: www.parcconline.org/take-the-test

Khan Academy Core: www.khanacademy.org/commoncore/

Florida Students: www.floridastudents.org

Just Take: 20: www.justtake20.org

SJCSD Testing Task Force: <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/testing/>

SJCSD Year – at – a – Glance: <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/year-at-a-glance/>

Reference and Formula Sheets:

http://fsassessments.org/wpcontent/uploads/2015/01/FSAMathematicsReferenceSheetsPacket1_Updated-January-8_2015.pdf

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SJCSD FSA Information Night K – 8 Presentation Fall 2015



2016 ELA FSA Testing Dates

Grade Level	Date	Duration	Number of Sessions	Delivery Method
3 rd FSA ELA	Mar 28 – Apr 8	80 minutes	2	Paper Based (PBT)
4 th – 5 th FSA ELA	Apr 11 – May 6	80 minutes	2	Computer Based (CBT)
6 th – 8 th FSA ELA	Apr 11 – May 6	85 minutes	2	Computer Based (CBT)
9 th & 10 th FSA ELA	Apr 11 – May 6	90 minutes	2	Computer Based (CBT)
FSA Writing Testing Dates				
4 th – 7 th FSA Writing	Feb 29 – Mar 11	90 minutes	1	Paper Based (PBT)
8 th – 10 th FSA Writing	Feb 29 – Mar 11	90 minutes	1	Computer Based (CBT)

2016 Mathematics FSA Testing Dates

Grade Level	Date	Duration	Number of Sessions	Delivery Method
3 rd FSA Math	Mar 28 – Apr 8	80 minutes	2	Paper Based (PBT)
4 th FSA Math	Apr 11 – May 6	80 minutes	2	Paper Based (PBT)
5 th FSA Math	Apr 11 – May 6	80 minutes	2	Computer Based (CBT)
6 th – 8 th FSA Math	Apr 11 – May 6	60 minutes	3	Computer Based (CBT)
EOC: Alg. 1, Geo., Alg. 2	Apr 11 – May 6	80 minutes	2	Computer Based (CBT)

2016 NGSSS Testing Dates

Assessment	Date	Duration	Number of Sessions	Delivery Method
FCAT 2.0 8 th grade Science	Apr 11 – May 6	160 minutes	1	Paper Based (PBT)
Civics EOC	Apr 18 – May 20	160 minutes	1	Computer Based (CBT)

How can you help your child be prepared?

- Read...newspapers, periodicals, fiction, biographies. Encourage your child to read every night.
- Encourage authentic reading and writing activities – write letters and thank you notes, read newspapers and journals, discuss current events.
- Use other content sources (science, math, social studies) as reading resources.
- Talk about what is being read. Write about what is being read.
- Stop at unknown words. Discuss what the words might mean and if the text helps understand the unknown word.
- Summarization is one of the most difficult tasks; provide relevant practice.
- Stay involved – use Edmodo, Home Access Center (HAC), and other resources to be up – to – date with assignments and grades. Review your child’s homework and offer positive feedback.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (ELA)

The Florida Standards reflect several important changes to previous standards. These changes are called shifts. The chart below shows what these shifts change, what you might see in your child’s backpack and what you can do to help your child. If you have questions or concerns about your child’s assignments or progress, please contact the teacher.

What’s Shifting?	What to Look for in the Backpack?	What Can You Do?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your child will now read more non-fiction in each grade level. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look for your child to have more reading assignments based on real-life events, such as biographies, articles and historical stories. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read non-fiction books with your children. Find ways to make reading fun and exciting.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reading more non-fiction texts will help your child learn about the world through reading. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look for your child to bring home more fact-based books about the world. For instance, your 1st grader or kindergartener might read Clyde Robert Bulla’s <i>A Tree is a Plant</i>. This book lets students read and learn about science. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Know what non-fiction books are grade-level appropriate and make sure your children have access to such books.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your child will read challenging texts very closely so they can make sense of what they read and draw their own conclusions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your child will have reading and writing assignments that might ask them to retell or write about key parts of a story or book. For example, your 2nd or 3rd grader might be asked to read aloud Faith D’Aluisio’s non-fiction book titled <i>What the World Eats</i> and retell facts from the story. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide more challenging texts for your child to read. Show them how to dig deeper into difficult pieces.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When it comes to writing or retelling a story, your child will use “evidence” gathered from the text to support what they say. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look for written assignments that ask your child to draw on concrete examples from the text that serve as evidence. Evidence means examples from the book that your child will use to support a response or conclusion. This is different from the opinion questions that have been used in the past. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ask your child to provide evidence in everyday discussions and disagreements.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your child will learn how to write from what they read. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look for writing assignments that ask your child to make arguments in writing using evidence. For 4th and 5th graders, this might mean reading and writing about <i>The Kid’s Guide to Money</i>, a non-fiction book by Steve Ottinoski. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage writing at home. Write together using evidence and details.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your child will have an increased academic vocabulary. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look for assignments that stretch your children’s vocabulary and teach them that “language is power”. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read often to babies, toddlers, preschoolers and children.

Table adapted from FLDOE document: **Parent’s Backpack Guide to the Florida Standards** <http://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/12087/urlt/Backpack-Guide.pdf>

1. Which two statements can be represented by the expression 4×8 ?

- Ⓐ A teacher puts 8 chairs at each of 4 tables.
- Ⓑ Tom buys 4 red markers and 8 black markers.
- Ⓒ Marie shares her 8 marbles equally among 4 friends.
- Ⓓ There are 4 rows of flowers. There are 8 flowers in each row.
- Ⓔ There are 8 ducks in the pond. Then, 4 more ducks join them.

2. An equation is shown. $3^m \cdot 3^n = 3^{-2}$ What are the possible values of m and n ?

$m =$

$n =$

←
→
↶
↷
✖

1	2	3
4	5	6
7	8	9
0	.	-

MATHEMATICS

To improve student learning, the Florida Standards are different from previous standards. These changes are called shifts. The chart below shows what is shifting, what you might see in your child’s backpack and what you can do to help your child.

What’s Shifting?	What to Look for in the Backpack?	What Can You Do?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your child will work more deeply in fewer topics, which will ensure full understanding. (Less is more!) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look for assignments that require students to show their work and explain how they arrived at an answer. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Know what concepts are important for your child based on his/her grade level and spend time working on those concepts.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your child will keep building on learning year after year, starting with a strong foundation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look for assignments that build on one another. For example, students will focus on adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing. Once these areas are mastered, they will focus on fractions. Building on that, they will then focus on Algebra. You should be able to see the progression in the topics they learn. Mastery and fluency of all operations with all sets of numbers is expected. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be aware of what concepts your child struggled with last year and support your child in those challenge areas moving forward.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your child will spend time practicing and memorizing math facts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look for assignments that ask your child to master math facts such as addition groupings up to 20 or multiplication tables. Students will be expected to use formulas learned in previous years. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Help your child know and memorize basic math facts. Ask your child to “do the math” that pops up in daily life.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your child will understand math processes and be asked to talk about and prove their understanding. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your children might have assignments that ask them to show or explain their mathematical thinking – to SAY why they think their answer is the right one. Students will be expected to support their thinking both verbally and mathematically. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Talk to your children about their math homework and ask them to teach you new concepts. Help them figure out ways to explain their thinking.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your child will now be asked to use math in real-world situations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look for math assignments that are based on the real world. For instance, homework for 5th graders might include adding fractions as part of a dessert recipe or determining how much pizza friends ate based on fractions. Students will learn and create models that define real world situations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide time every day for your child to work on math at home.

Table adapted from FLDOE document: **Parent’s Backpack Guide to the Florida Standards** <http://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/12087/urlt/Backpack-Guide.pdf>