

FSA

Florida Standards Assessment

2015

Florida Standards Assessment

- 2015 is the first year for FSA, which takes the place of FCAT in English/language arts (ELA), writing, and math.
- FSA is used to assess proficiency of the Florida Standards in ELA, writing, and math.
- Students in grade 3, 4, and 5 will take the FSA for ELA and math.
- Students in grades 4 and 5 will also take the FSA for writing.
- Fifth graders will continue to take the FCAT Science test.

Test Schedules

	Third Grade	Fourth Grade	Fifth Grade
FSA Writing (90-120 minutes)	N/A	March 5 th	March 5 th
FSA Math (Sessions are 80 min. each)	March 26 th (Session 1) March 27 th (Session 2)	March 26 th (Session 1) March 27 th (Session 2)	April 13 th (Session 1) April 14 th (Session 2) <i>**Computer based**</i>
FSA ELA (Sessions are 80 min. each)	March 31 st (Session 1) April 1 st (Session 2)	March 31 st (Session 1) April 1 st (Session 2)	April 20 th (Session 1) April 21 st (Session 2) <i>**Computer based**</i>
FCAT Science	N/A	N/A	April 29 th (Session 1) April 30 th (Session 2)

Testing Information

- Grades 3 and 4 math and ELA will be paper/pencil. Grades 3 and 4 will work out math problems in their test booklet.
- Grade 5 math and ELA will be computer based. Grade 5 math will include a folder to work out the problems. Once a student has finalized and submitted a session, they can not go back.
- There will be a total of 60-64 questions on the FSA for math in grades 3, 4, and 5.

Paper-based Math Testing for Grades 3-4

- Multiple choice and multiple selection.
- All multiple choice questions have a total of 4 options.
- Multiple selection items: student must select more than 1 answer. Some questions may specify the number of answers to select and others may say select all correct answers.
- There are at least two correct answers on a multiple selection item.
- There will be some questions that require students to write a response. Written responses will be hand scored.

More on Multiple Selection

- Multiple selection items are worth 1 point so there will be no partial credit. A student must select all correct answers to receive credit.
- In **most** cases there are 5 choices in a multiple selection item.
- There will not be a 4 choice multiple selection item as that would be multiple choice.
- On a paper-based test, the student will fill in the bubbles to mark their selections.

Equation Response Items

- Equation response items will require students to enter a valid statement that answers a question.
- Equation response items could be a number, an expression, or an equation.
- Equation response items consist of a context, a question, and a response area.

Additional Details

- If a question is worth 2 points, students can earn partial credit.
- All 504 Plan and IEP test accommodations will be provided for students as required by the student's plan.

More on Various Test Items

25-50% of the test for grade 5 will be something other than multiple choice or multiple selection.

Technology-enhanced items:

- Students will have item type tutorials available to them to help them navigate through the technology enhanced items.
- **Hot text items**: click, drag, and drop
- **Natural Language**: these are open response items. For open response items the student will need to explain the solution in his/her own words. Complete sentences are NOT needed for math and spelling errors do not affect scoring in math.

Examples of Possible Test Items

- **Matching:** students will check a box to indicate if the information from a column header matches the information from a row.
- **Table items:** students will type numeric values in a given table. This could be part of or a whole table. It could be more than one point depending on the question. Table items could be click, drag, or drop.
- **Editing Tasks:** primarily for the ELA test.
- Items could combine more than one item type.

Conversions and Formulas for Elementary

- Multiplication symbols used are $(\cdot)$ and $(\times)$.
- Formulas will be provided for grades 4 and 5.
- Grade 5 formulas will be embedded when appropriate.
- Grade 4 must know $\text{Area} = L \times W$, not $\text{Area} = B \times H$.

Formulas

- If the question is for conceptual understanding, then a formula will most likely not be given. In addition, if the standard requires the student to “use” or “apply” the formula, then the formula will most likely be given. If the standard suggests the student “know” or “derive” the formulas, then the formula will not be given. The assessment reflects the intention of the standard.

Example: Conversion Tables

The following conversions will be provided in a pop-up window for the grade 5 CBT (computer based test).

Customary Conversions

1 foot = 12 inches
1 yard = 3 feet
1 mile = 5,280 feet
1 mile = 1,760 yards

1 cup = 8 fluid ounces
1 pint = 2 cups
1 quart = 2 pints
1 gallon = 4 quarts

1 pound = 16 ounces
1 ton = 2,000 pounds

Metric Conversions

1 meter = 100 centimeters
1 meter = 1000 millimeters
1 kilometer = 1000 meters

1 liter = 1000 milliliters

1 gram = 1000 milligrams
1 kilogram = 1000 grams

Time Conversions

1 minute = 60 seconds
1 hour = 60 minutes
1 day = 24 hours
1 year = 365 days
1 year = 52 weeks

FSA Writing for Grades 4 and 5

- Paper and pencil based test for both 4th and 5th grades.
- **Students will be given an initial 90 minutes to read the task and the text passage sets, plan, write, and edit.** After 90 minutes all students will be allowed a brief break; **students needing additional time will be allowed 30 additional minutes.** Students who are finished after 90 and choose not to take the additional 30 minutes will turn in their responses.
- **Students with IEP** accommodations will be given those accommodations based on the current IEP. **For students with reading accommodations, ONLY the writing task can be read aloud.** Text passages are required to be read by the students.
- For all paper-based writing, **students will have 3 lined pages** on which to write and **one lined planning sheet** for planning the response, which will not be scored. No additional paper can be used. All papers will be collected, including the planning sheet.
- **Students are not to use mechanical pencils** to write their responses; the lead is often too light. Students must respond with #2 pencils.

Instructional Implications for Writing

- 4th and 5th grade students will receive either an informative/explanatory prompt **OR** an opinion prompt; students will not be told the purpose of their writing prior to the test administration.
- Students should **ALWAYS** read the prompt **BEFORE** reading the text passages as it helps the student determine the purpose for writing.
- Students are being taught to use the planning sheet wisely, including pulling out textual evidence.
- In opinion writing, students must pick a position (take a stand) and write to support that opinion based upon textual evidence supported by elaboration.

English/Language Arts

- Assesses students on literary text and informational text.
- Assesses Key Details, Craft & Structure, Integration of Knowledge and Ideas, Language & Editing
- ELA test will have 56-60 questions. (6-10 items are field test items and will not be scored)
- The FSA ELA assessment includes the Writing Component (4th and 5th grades) that is administered separately (March 5), but it is reported as part of the ELA score. (It is administered earlier to allow time for hand scoring.)

FSA ELA for Grades 3, 4, 5

Types of responses to questions on the test:

- Hot Text
 - Requires the student to select words, phrases, or quotations from the text to answer questions using explicit or implicit information in the text as support.
 - Requires the student to select an inference from the choices and then to select words or phrases from the text to support the inference [Two-Part Hot Text].
- Multiple Choice
 - Requires the student to select from the choices using either explicit or implicit information from the text to inform or support an inference.
- Open Response
 - Requires the student to describe in words using explicit or implicit information from the text as support.

FSA Scoring and Reporting

- FSA ELA and Mathematics results will be reported using the following three measures:
 - **Scores**—Students will receive two scores: a T-score and a percentile rank. The T-score is a score on a scale of 20-80 with approximately 50 as the statewide average. Students will also receive a percentile rank, which will show how they performed on each grade level/subject area test compared to all other students in Florida who took the same test. After achievement-level cut scores are established, districts will receive 2014-2015 FSA retrofitted test results to reflect student performance on the new score scale.
 - **Content Area Scores**—Content area scores are reported as the actual number of points earned out of the number of points possible for each reporting category. Reporting categories represent groups of similar skills, or benchmarks, which are assessed within each grade level and subject area.
 - **Achievement Levels**—The success a student has achieved with the Florida Standards will be assessed by FSA ELA and mathematics assessments and is described by Achievement Levels that range from 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest). Level 3 indicates satisfactory performance.

What's Next?

- Students are being taught the Florida Standards and have been doing ELA, writing, and math tasks all year that we believe will support what will be tested on FSA.
- Students will have the opportunity to do FSA practice tasks.
- Parents, please make sure students are in school on time on the testing dates unless ill. It is very difficult to do make up testing and students are often tested by someone other than their teacher.

Third Grade Reading Requirement

- According to section 1008.25(5), Florida Statutes (F.S.), to be promoted to fourth grade, a third-grade student must score a Level 2 or above on the statewide Florida Standards Assessment – English Language Arts.
- Students are closely monitored throughout the school year to ensure they are making adequate progress in reading, receiving intervention and remediation along the way. (Response to Intervention (RtI), target instruction, and reading strategies after school)
- All 3rd graders will take the Discovery Education reading test in February as a progress monitoring tool. Students scoring below 1450 on DE test C are at risk for scoring a level 1 on the FSA ELA test.
- At risk students will be identified for the student portfolio. The portfolio is an alternative means for students to demonstrate proficiency of third-grade skills.

Level 1 on FSA-What happens?

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- Students will continue to receive intervention/remediation and will take the SAT 10 test prior to the end of the school year.
 - If a student does not demonstrate proficiency on the FSA ELA assessment (level 2 or higher), the student portfolio, or the SAT 10, they may attend the district provided Summer Reading Camp to ensure they receive additional instruction to catch up with their peers. Students will take the SAT 10 again at the end of Summer Reading Camp.
 - If the student shows proficiency in reading through the portfolio or SAT 10, he/she will meet the requirements for promotion to 4th grade. If not, 3rd grade is repeated. Specific details are worked out on an individual basis.

Good Cause Exemptions

- **Students who demonstrate an acceptable level of performance on a state-approved alternative standardized reading or English Language Arts assessment; (SAT 10)**
- **Students who demonstrate, through a student portfolio, that he or she is performing at least at Level 2 on the statewide standardized assessment;**
- Limited English Proficient (LEP) students who have had less than two years of instruction in an English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) program;
- Students with disabilities whose Individual Educational Plan (IEP) indicates that participation in the statewide assessment program is not appropriate, consistent with the requirements of State Board of Education rule;
- Students with disabilities who participate in the statewide standardized assessment and whose IEP or 504 Plan reflects that the student has received intensive remediation in reading and English Language Arts for more than two years, but still demonstrates a deficiency and was previously retained in kindergarten, grade 1, grade 2 or grade 3;
- Students who have received intensive reading intervention for two or more years but still demonstrate a deficiency in reading and who were previously retained in kindergarten, grade 1, grade 2 or grade 3 for a total of two years. A student may not be retained more than once in grade 3.
- Students who have received intensive remediation in reading and English Language Arts for two or more years, but who still have a deficiency in reading and have already been retained in kindergarten, grade 1, grade 2 or grade 3 for a total of two years.

FSA Resources for Parents

- <http://www.fsassessments.org/training-tests>
- Examples of test questions for math and ELA
- Teachers will provide additional links to practice tests and other resources to help at home.