



Testing is an important part of the educational process as it allows teachers and parents to see how well students understand what has been taught in the classroom. This brochure contains information about the testing programs in Leon County Schools. The following information provides brief descriptions of the tests, the times of year the tests are given, and the grade level(s) to which the tests are administered. For more information about testing please contact your child's school.

FLKRS- Florida Kindergarten Readiness Screener

During the first 30 calendar days of school, all Florida kindergarten students will be assessed for school readiness. Teachers will observe students and complete the Early Childhood Observation System (ECHOS) and the Florida Assessments for Instruction in Reading (FAIR). These are not achievement tests and should not be used to place or select students for programs.

FAIR- Florida Assessments for Instruction in Reading

FAIR uses two brief broad screening tasks to identify those students most likely to be on grade level in reading by the end of the school year. FAIR K-2 screening tasks include Letter Sounds, Phonemic Awareness, and Word Reading. In Grades 3-12 the screening tasks also include an adaptive reading comprehension measure. FAIR is administered to K-12 students (3) times during the school year.

Differentiated Accountability Assessments

Schools that are currently under the Differentiated Accountability status will administer various assessment instruments to monitor student progress in the areas of Mathematics and Science. Assessments produce baseline and mid-year data.

CELLA- Comprehensive English Language Learning Assessment

The CELLA is a four-skill language proficiency assessment used to measure the growth of English Language Learners in mastering the skills in English needed to succeed in school. CELLA is administered March through April of 2011.

FCAT- Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test

FCAT Writing will be administered March 1, 2011. FCAT Reading, Mathematics and Science will be administered April 11-22, 2011.

Writing

For this test, students are asked to write an essay within a 45-minute testing session on a single assigned topic. Grade 4 prompts are written to elicit either a narrative (tell a story) or an expository response (explain an idea). At Grades 8 and 10, the prompts are written to elicit either an expository or a persuasive (attempt to convince an audience to agree with a given position) response. Papers are scored based on four elements of writing: focus, organization, support, and conventions. Scoring is holistic, meaning that a single rating is given for the response as a whole. Scorers use a scale that ranges from Unscorable (0) to 6.

FCAT 2.0- Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test

Reading-(3rd-10th) Mathematics-(3rd-8th, 10th)

These tests measuring student achievement of the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards are an important part of the State's accountability initiative. The tests assess high-level, challenging standards by requiring students to respond to multiple-choice questions. Passing the 10th grade FCAT is a graduation requirement. Students who take this test must meet passing scores of 1926 for Reading and 1889 for Mathematics. Opportunities for 11th and 12th grade students who have not passed the FCAT will be offered in October, 2010 and April, 2011.

Science

This test, comprised of multiple choice items assessing science benchmarks, is administered at grades 5, 8 and 11.

WUR- 'Writes Upon Request'

This program assesses student writing in first through tenth grades once each nine weeks. (First grade tests second semester only.) Students are given grade-appropriate prompts (topics) and time limits in which to respond.

Florida Alternate Assessment



This test is used to assess students with significant cognitive disabilities who are working on the Sunshine State Standards Access Points. The subjects and grade levels tested are the same as the FCAT. The test will be administered January through February of 2011.

ITBS- Iowa Test of Basic Skills

The IOWA Test of Basic Skills is a norm-referenced test for students in Kindergarten through Grade Two. This test compares reading, language and mathematics achievement of students to that of a nationally representative group. NRT scores are reported as national percentile rankings where 50 is the national average. (For example, if a first grade student scores a national percentile rank of 74 in mathematics, he or she scored higher than 74% of the students in the national sample of first graders who originally took the test.) The ITBS will be administered May 2-6, 2011.

EOC- Florida End-of-Course Assessments- Algebra 1

All Algebra 1 Students, regardless of grade, who complete the Algebra 1 curriculum in 2010-2011, are required to take the State Algebra 1 End-of-Course Assessment in May, 2011. This criterion-referenced test, administered by computer, measures the Next Generation of Sunshine State Standards covered in the course curriculum. Students entering ninth grade will have the results of the test count as thirty percent of their course grade.

AP- Advanced Placement Examinations

High schools that offer Advanced Placement courses also provide Advanced Placement examinations. These courses and examinations help colleges recognize candidates' qualifications for advanced placement in college work. Students may receive college credit for certain scores on AP exams. These exams are administered in the high schools each May. Register through the guidance counselor at your high school.

ACT/SAT- American College Testing, Scholastic Achievement Test

The ACT and SAT are tests that measure skills acquired throughout a student's education. A minimum ACT or SAT score is required by some colleges for admission. The ACT and SAT help college admission officers evaluate how well prepared a student is to do college work. The tests are administered several times a year to high school students and a test fee is charged. Information about the American College Testing program is available at <http://www.actstudent.org/>. To learn more about the Scholastic Achievement Test, visit <http://sat.collegeboard.com/home>. Brochures describing the tests are available in the guidance office of each high school.

PSAT/NMSQT- Preliminary SAT/

National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test

The PSAT/NMSQT, similar in design to the SAT, is the qualifying examination for the National Merit Scholarship Program for 11th grade students. The PSAT/NMSQT measures the critical reading, math problem solving, and writing skills that are developed throughout life. The PSAT is administered in October to all 10th grade students. The fee for 10th grade students is paid by the College Board Florida Partnership.

Individual Evaluations

Individual evaluations are provided for any student who is suspected of having a disability. These evaluations must be completed by competent evaluation specialists such as school psychologists, speech/language pathologists, audiologists, teachers, and social workers. School based individual evaluations are arranged through each school's Intervention Team. Parental consent is required for an individual evaluation. Please contact your child's school for more information.



GED- General Educational Development Test

Adults who have not completed high school may earn a high school diploma through the GED Test. The GED Test consists of five subject area tests which measure general high school skills and concepts. Candidates who pass the GED Test are awarded a State of Florida High School Diploma. The GED Test is generally administered twice a month

with registration at Adult and Community

Education, located at 283 Trojan Trail. For more information, contact Adult and Community Education at 922-5343.

Tips to Help Your Child Prepare for Tests

- Provide a space and time for regular study.
- Emphasize the importance of testing without increasing fears.
- Teach relaxation techniques.
- See that your child gets plenty of rest prior to testing.
- Provide proper meals prior to testing.
- Make sure that your child gets to school on time.
- Do not plan any doctor or dental appointments on test dates.
- Encourage your child to do his/her best on a test.
- Encourage your child to listen carefully to all directions given by the teacher and ask questions about anything that is unclear.
- Point out that there may be questions on a test that your child does not know how to answer, but that he or she should answer to the best of his or her ability.
- Suggest that for timed tests, your child not spend too much time on one question – but go back if time allows.
- Set reasonable goals for achievement.

Nondiscrimination Contact Information

“No person shall on the basis of gender, marital status, sexual orientation, race, religion, national origin, age, color or disability be denied employment, receipt of services, access to or participation in school activities or programs if qualified to receive such services, or otherwise be discriminated against or placed in a hostile environment in any educational program or activity including those receiving Federal financial assistance, except as provided by law.”

An employee, student, parent or applicant alleging discrimination with respect to employment, or any educational program or activity may contact:

Kathleen L. Rodgers

Equity and Title IX Compliance Officer

Leon County School District

2757 West Pensacola Street

Tallahassee, Florida 32304

(850) 487-7306

rodgersk@leonschools.net

A student or parent alleging discrimination as it relates to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act may contact:

Dr. Margot Palazesi, 504 Specialist

Leon County School District

2757 West Pensacola Street

Tallahassee, Florida 32304

(850) 487-7161

palazesim@leonschools.net

Leon County School District

Tallahassee, Florida

Jackie Pons, Superintendent



DEPARTMENT OF TESTING, RESEARCH & EVALUATION

3955 WEST PENSACOLA STREET

TALLAHASSEE, FL 32304

PHONE: 487-7833

A GUIDE TO TESTING PROGRAMS IN LEON COUNTY SCHOOLS



2010-2011