

Introduction to the Florida Standards Assessment (FSA)

Meet the FSA

The Florida Standards in Mathematics and English Language Arts were approved by the Florida State Board of Education in February 2014 and will be fully implemented in grades K–12 in the 2014–2015 school year. All Florida schools will teach the Florida Standards, and the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) has contracted with the American Institutes for Research (AIR) to develop and administer new statewide assessments. These assessments will provide parents, teachers, policy makers and the general public with information regarding how well students are learning the Florida standards.

AIR offers a dynamic computer-based test delivery system. Students will respond to items in multiple ways, including creating graphs, writing short responses and using other interactive features. The various question types are designed to assess higher-order thinking skills and offer exciting new ways for students to show what they know and can do. Training tests are now available for students, parents and educators to become familiar with the new testing system. The training tests can be accessed at www.FSAssessments.org/training-tests.

Families are encouraged to take advantage of the information and resources available on the Florida Standards Assessments portal (www.FSAssessments.org) and the FDOE website (www.fldoe.org). More resources will be made available throughout the 2014–2015 school year, so parents and students should check these websites regularly for updates.

FSA Writing and English/Language Arts (ELA)

Grades 3–11 English Language Arts (Writing component in grades 4–11)

- For ELA grades 3–5, there are 56–60 items.
- For ELA grades 6–8, there are 58–62 items.
- For ELA grades 9–11, there are 60–64 items.
- Six to 10 of the items on each assessment are field test items and are NOT used to calculate student scores.

ELA Text-Based Writing Component (Statewide testing window March 2–13, 2015)			
Grade Level	Number of Days of Testing	Total Number of Sessions	Minutes per Session*
4	1	1	90
5	1	1	90
6	1	1	90
7	1	1	90
8	1	1	90
9	1	1	90
10	1	1	90
11	1	1	90

ELA Reading and Listening Assessment (Statewide testing window March 23–May 8, 2015)			
Grade Level	Number of Days of Testing	Total Number of Sessions	Minutes per Session
3	2	2	80
4	2	2	80
5	2	2	80
6	2	2	85
7	2	2	85
8	2	2	85
9	2	2	90
10	2	2	90
11	2	2	90

The following table describes some of the tools and materials available for students on the computer-based assessments.

Material/Tool	ELA Reading Grades 5–11	ELA Writing Grades 8–11
Calculator	No	No
Reference sheet	No	No

Four-page Work Folders	No	No
One-page CBT Worksheet	YES	No
One-page Planning Sheet	No	YES

Scoring and Reporting

FSA ELA results will be reported using the following three measures:

- **Scores**—For the first administration, students will receive two performance indicators: 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. For grade 3 and grade 10 ELA, a score linked to the FCAT 2.0 grade 3 and grade 10 assessments will be provided.
- **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. The level of performance required to score in each Achievement Level will be established prior to the spring 2016 administration.

FSA End of Course Exams (EOC)

Florida Standards Assessment End of Course Exams (Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2)

- Each assessment is administered in two 90-minute sessions with one session per day over two days. Individual breaks may be allowed as needed.
- There are multiple forms of the assessment, with a maximum of 68 items on each test form. Six to ten of these items are field test items and are NOT used to calculate student scores.
- Scientific calculators are provided as part of the CBT platform for **Session 2 only** of all FSA EOCs. The calculators are available for practice on the FSA portal.

Scoring and Reporting

- **Equating**—Student results from the different test forms are reviewed and compared to ensure that the level of difficulty is the same for each test form. This process, called “equating,” takes place after testing when enough student scores are in the system to ensure that a representative sample of student results is available for use in the comparison.
- **Scores**—For the first administration, students will receive two performance indicators: 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, showing 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 test results retrofitted to reflect student performance on the new score scale. For Algebra 1, a score linked to the NGSSS Algebra 1 EOC assessment will be provided.
- **Achievement Levels**—The success a student has achieved with the Florida Standards will be assessed by FSA ELA and Mathematics assessments and will be described by Achievement Levels that range from 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest). Level 3 indicates satisfactory performance. The level of performance required to score in each achievement level will be established prior to the spring 2016 administration.