

**Testing** is an important part of the educational process because it allows parents and educators to determine 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) in which the tests are administered. For more information about testing, please contact your child's school.

## State Assessment Programs

### Florida Kindergarten Readiness Screener (FLKRS)

The purpose of the FLKRS instrument is to gather information about a child's overall development and readiness for kindergarten. It is administered to all kindergarten students during the first 30 days of school. Teachers observe students during classroom activities and complete the Work Sampling System (WSS) checklist to indicate students' skills, knowledge and behavior. It is important to note that this is not an achievement or placement test. The state collects this information to evaluate VPK programs.

### Florida Standards Alternate Assessment- (FSAA)

Beginning in spring 2016, the new Florida Standards Alternate Assessment will be administered to students with significant cognitive disabilities. Grades 3-10 ELA, Grades 3-8 Mathematics and EOC exams for Algebra 1 and Geometry are aligned to Florida Standards-Access Points. Grades 5 and 8 Science and Biology 1 EOC are aligned to NGSSS Access Points. The FSAA will be administered February 29 – April 29, 2016.

### Assessing Comprehension and Communication in English State-to-State for English Language Learners (ACCESS for ELLs 2.0)

ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 is a secure large-scale English language proficiency assessment given to kindergarten through 12th graders who have been identified as English language learners (ELLs). ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 will be administered February 8 - March 25, 2016.

## Florida Standards Assessments (FSA)

### English Language Arts (ELA), Mathematics

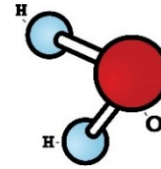
The FSA measures students' higher-order thinking skills aligned to the rigorous expectations of the Florida Standards. Students will be prompted to create graphs, interact with test content, select responses, and write in response to a variety of questions. The FSA will be administered in March 2016 (ELA Writing Component) and in April – May 2016 (English/Language Arts and Mathematics).

### Florida Standards Assessments End-of-Course Assessments (FSA-EOC)

These tests, administered by computer, measure the new Florida Standards. EOCs count as 30% of the course grade for Algebra 1, Geometry, and Algebra 2. FSA-EOC assessments for Algebra 1, Geometry, and Algebra 2 will be administered in April – May of 2016.

### FCAT 2.0 Science

FCAT 2.0 Science (Grades 5 and 8) measures student achievement on the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards in Science and is an important part of the state's accountability initiative. FCAT 2.0 Science will be administered in April, 2016.



### Next Generation Sunshine State Standards End-of-Course Assessments (NGSSS-EOC)

There are end-of-course assessments for Algebra 1 Retake, Geometry Retake, Biology 1, Civics, and U.S. History. These criterion-referenced tests, administered by computer, measure the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards covered in each course. EOCs count as 30% of the course grade for Biology, Geometry, and U.S. History.

### FCAT Reading 2.0/FCAT Math Retakes

Retake opportunities for students who have not passed FCAT 2.0 Reading and/or FCAT Math will be offered October, 2015, and March - April, 2016.

## National Assessment Programs

### Advanced Placement Examinations (AP)

High school students may enroll in and take Advanced Placement courses. These courses require examinations to help colleges recognize candidates' qualifications for college work. These exams are administered by the high schools each May. Students may receive college credit for certain scores on AP exams. Examination registration occurs through each high school.

### International Baccalaureate (IB)

The International Baccalaureate is a Diploma Program with a rigorous pre-university course of study leading to internationally standardized tests. The program's comprehensive two-year curriculum allows its graduates fulfill requirements of many different nations' education systems. Students completing IB courses and exams are eligible for college credit. These exams are administered each May. For more information about the IB magnet program, call James S. Rickards High School (488-1783).

### Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT)

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

### American College Testing (ACT) and Scholastic Achievement Test (SAT)

The ACT and SAT measure skills acquired throughout a student's education to help college admission officers evaluate how prepared a student is to complete college work. A minimum ACT or SAT score is required by some colleges for admission. The tests are administered several times a year to high school students and a test fee is charged. Information about the ACT is available at [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org). To learn more about the SAT, visit [sat.collegeboard.com](http://sat.collegeboard.com). Brochures describing the tests are available in the guidance office of each high school.

## **General Educational Development Test (GED)**

Adults who have not completed high school can earn a high school diploma through the GED Test. Candidates who pass the GED are awarded a State of Florida High School Diploma. The test is administered three days a week at Adult and Community Education (ACE) located at 283 Trojan Trail. Students register for the test at [www.ged.com](http://www.ged.com). The test is aligned to the Common Core State Standards and covers language arts, math, science, and social studies. For more information, or for classes, contact Adult and Community Education at 922-5343.

## **Local Assessment Programs**

Students' skill levels on standards are measured through a variety of assessments such as teacher-made tests or publisher-developed exams. For example, the Florida Standards place a premium on students' writing to sources by using evidence from texts to present careful analysis, well defended claims, and clear information. Rather than asking students to answer a question based on their prior knowledge or experience, the standards require students to respond to a question based on a close reading of one or more texts. Teachers will monitor student progress through different types of writing tasks that mirror the Florida Standards Assessment ELA writing component. Please contact your child's school for more information.

## **Individual Evaluations**

Individual evaluations are provided for any student who is suspected of having a disability. These evaluations must be completed by qualified 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. The evaluations are provided by the Office of Exceptional Student Education. Please contact your child's school for more information.

## **Nondiscrimination Notification and 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.” No person shall deny equal access or a fair opportunity to meet to, or discriminate against, any group officially affiliated with the Boy Scouts of America, or any other youth group listed in Title 36 of the United States Code as a patriotic society.**

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

**Dr. Kathleen L. Rodgers  
Equity Coordinator and Title IX Compliance Officer  
Leon County School District  
2757 West Pensacola Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32304  
(850) 487-7306  
[rodgersk@leonschools.net](mailto:rodgersk@leonschools.net)**

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

**Dr. Alan Cox, 504 Specialist  
Leon County Schools  
2757 West Pensacola Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32304  
(850) 487-7190  
[coxa@leonschools.net](mailto:coxa@leonschools.net)**

**Jackie Pons, Superintendent  
Leon County School District  
Tallahassee, Florida**



**DEPARTMENT OF TESTING, RESEARCH & EVALUATION  
3955 WEST PENSACOLA STREET  
TALLAHASSEE, FL 32304  
PHONE: 487-7833**

# **A GUIDE TO TESTING PROGRAM IN LEON COUNTY SCHOOLS**



**2015-2016**