

2008 FLORIDA CELLA COMMUNIQUÉ #3

Effective Implementation of Functional Level Testing, Use of Locator Test, Flowchart, and Decision-Making Rubric

CELLA was designed to provide a high-quality, reliable assessment that efficiently evaluates the wide range of English language skills of English Language Learners (ELLs). CELLA offers functional level testing for the Reading and Writing. Functional level testing allows students in grades 3 through 12 to take a lower level of the Reading and Writing test if their literacy skills are substantially below the English proficient level.

Teachers and CELLA Test Administrators should use the following tools to determine the correct Reading and Writing level of CELLA to administer to students classified as English language learners (ELLs) at the time of testing:

- ✓ 2008 CELLA Testing Decision Flowchart, and
- ✓ 2008 CELLA Functional Level Testing Decision-Making Rubric, or
- ✓ CELLA Locator Test, Directions for Administering Locator Test and Locator Test Answer Sheet.

These tools were provided to all districts at the 2008 CELLA Regional Train-the-Trainer Sessions and are included as Appendix F in the final version of the 2008 CELLA Test Administrators Manual which will be sent to all districts with the testing materials.

Teachers and CELLA Test Administrators do not need to administer the CELLA Locator Test or use the 2008 CELLA Functional Level Testing Decision-Making Rubric for students classified as ELLs (with an ELL code of LY & LP) who have been in an approved ESOL program for one year or more and who have attained a scale score of 660 or above on the prior year's CELLA test in reading and writing. These students are considered to be functioning near the English proficient level and should take the Reading and Writing sections that correspond to their actual grade level.

Former ELLs (with an ELL code of LF) who exited the ESOL program after May 27, 2007 and before April 22, 2008 must also be tested using the appropriate level of Reading and Writing test based on their grade.

Why Administer Functional Level Testing?

It is strongly recommended that all school districts make every effort to ensure that each student take the CELLA Reading and Writing sections that most closely correspond to that student's functional level.

Administration of the Reading and Writing test at the appropriate functional level is important because:

- Provides reliable results for all ELLs.
- Avoids student frustration during testing since administering the most appropriate level of Reading and Writing ensures that each student is given only test items that reflect his or her skill level.

- Provides pertinent diagnostic information and accurate identification of interventions for students.

The table below details what testing material is used for students who are to be tested using functional level testing.

In addition to the *2008 Test Administration Manual* and the *2008 Directions for Administration & Scoring Guides*, the test administrator will need the following materials

Grade Level	On Grade Level – Listening & Speaking	Functional Level Testing – Reading & Writing
Kindergarten (K) and Grades 1 & 2	Level A Student Test Book	There is no functional level testing for grades K-2.
Grades 3, 4, and 5	Level B Listening & Speaking Test Book	Level A Functional Level Reading & Writing Test Book <i>(All answers are recorded in this book)</i>
Grades 6, 7, and 8	Level C Listening & Speaking Test Book	Level A Functional Level Reading & Writing Test Book <i>(All answers are recorded in this book)</i>
Grades 6, 7, and 8	Level C Listening & Speaking Test Book	Level B Reading & Writing Test Book <i>(All answers are recorded on the Levels B, C, and D Answer Sheet)</i>
Grades 9, 10, 11 and 12	Level D Listening & Speaking Test Book	Level A Functional Level Reading & Writing Test Book <i>(All answers are recorded in this book)</i>
Grades 9, 10, 11 and 12	Level D Listening & Speaking Test Book	Level B Reading & Writing Test Book <i>(All answers are recorded on the Levels B, C, and D Answer Sheet)</i>
Grades 9, 10, 11 and 12	Level D Listening & Speaking Test Book	Level C Reading & Writing Test Book <i>(All answers are recorded on the Levels B, C, and D Answer Sheet)</i>

Things to Remember:

- For more information regarding Functional Level Testing, refer to the 2008 CELLA Guidance on Functional Level Testing provided during your training session or access the Guidance Document on the Florida CELLA website at the following URL: <http://www.fldoe.org/aala/cella.asp>.

- Functional level testing **ONLY** applies to the Reading and Writing sections. It does **NOT** apply to the Listening and Reading sections. Students should take the Listening and Speaking sections on their actual grade level.
- Students taking the Level A Functional Level Reading & Writing will record ALL answers (Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing) in the Level A Functional Level Test Book. DO NOT USE the Levels B, C, D Answer Sheet for these students.

Use of CELLA Locator Test

The CELLA Locator Test is a short test consisting of 18 multiple-choice reading questions. Total administration time for the CELLA Locator Test is approximately 35 minutes. It is designed to help determine which level of Reading and Writing assessment — A, B, C, or D— is most appropriate for each student in grades 6-12. (Students in kindergarten through grade 2 must take CELLA Level A.)

The CELLA Locator Test is NOT a placement test and should NOT be used to place students into the English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) program.

If a student has taken CELLA in a previous administration, it is not necessary to administer the CELLA Locator Test to that student. Instead, the Reading and Writing test level can be selected based on the level previously taken, the student's score on that level, and the teacher's judgment of how much progress the student has made since the previous administration.

The CELLA Locator Test is designed to be hand scored locally (i.e., scored by a teacher or test administrator). The CELLA Locator Test Answer Sheets are not to be returned to ETS or to any other centralized location for scoring.

When should the CELLA Locator Test be used?

Use the test for students who have been served for less than 2 months and for whom reading and writing proficiency level or literacy level is unknown.

What information with the CELLA Locator Test provide?

The results of the test will provide information about a student's reading level and indicate level of CELLA Reading and Writing that will yield the best information about the student and the appropriate baseline data from which his/her progress may then be measured.

How is the CELLA Locator Test scored?

The test is designed to be hand scored locally (i.e., scored by a teacher or test administrator). The answer sheets are NOT to be returned to ETS or to any other centralized location for scoring. The Locator Test Answer Sheet (Page 11) and Locator Test Answer Key (Page 10) may be found in the *CELLA Locator Test Directions for Administration*.

There are 3 steps to follow to score and interpret results:

1. To determine the raw score
 - Count the total number of items answered correctly (Range from 0-18)
 - Ignore all incorrect or blank questions
 - Use the Answer Key (found on page 10 in the Locator Test DFA) and also repeated below.

	Raw Score on Locator Test	Recommended Test Level
2.	0-5	Level A
3.	6-8	Level B
4.	9-12	Level C
5.	13-18	Level D

- 6.
- 7.
2. Determine the recommended test level based on raw score.
3. Decide on the most appropriate test level.

Student's Grade*	Possible Test Levels for Reading and Writing
3-5 (Level B)	Levels B or A
6-8 (Level C)	Levels C, B, or A
9-12 (Level D)	Levels D, C, B, or A

* NOTE: Grades K-2 are not included, because all students should take the Level A test that includes Listening, Reading, Writing and One-On-One