

Understanding the Florida Alternate Assessment

English



Information for Parents

The Florida Alternate Assessment

The Florida Alternate Assessment is a performance-based assessment, not a paper and pencil test. It is designed for students with significant cognitive disabilities for whom participation in the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) is inappropriate, even with accommodations.

Who determines if my child participates in the Florida Alternate Assessment?

- Decisions regarding the type of assessment to be administered are based upon the student's individual needs and determined by the Individual Educational Plan (IEP) team, which includes you as the parent, and also teachers, administrators, and service providers.

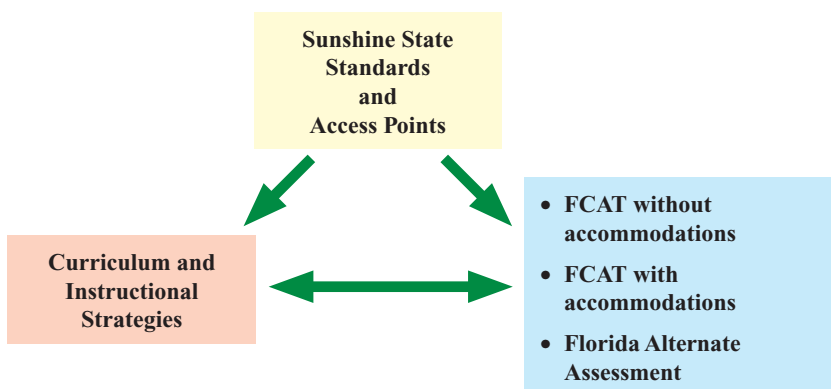
What are the academic expectations of students with disabilities?

- Florida has a standards-driven system for all students.
- The *Sunshine State Standards* and Access Points for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities drive the curriculum, instructional strategies, and assessment.
- Student success in achieving the standards is assessed in one of three ways:

FCAT without accommodations

FCAT with accommodations

Florida Alternate Assessment for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities



How will the assessment results be used?

Your child's results can be used to:

- assist the Individual Educational Plan (IEP) team in developing annual goals and objectives;
- inform instructional planning;
- improve student achievement in the classroom;
- monitor progress from year to year; and
- determine teacher training needs.

What can I do as a parent to prepare my child for the Florida Alternate Assessment?

- Make sure that your child is well rested.
- Provide your child with a well-rounded diet. This will help ensure a healthy body and a healthy, active mind.
- Encourage your child to do their best.

How can I get more information about the Florida Alternate Assessment?

More information about the Florida Alternate Assessment can be obtained by talking to your child's teacher or school district's ESE Administrator. You can also contact the Florida Department of Education Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services at (850) 245-0475.

You can download copies of this brochure at www.fldoe.org/ese.



Dr. Eric J. Smith
Commissioner of Education