

History of the FCAT

- 1995 Competitive bidding for creation of the FCAT.
- 1996 Development and administration contract with CTB/McGraw-Hill; State Board of Education approved the Sunshine State Standards.
- 1997 Statewide field test of FCAT items; Reading in grades 4, 8, and 10; mathematics in grades 5, 8, and 10.
- 1998 First statewide administration of FCAT; In the late fall 1998, the State Board of Education established five achievement levels for each of the FCAT tests.
- 1999 Second statewide administration of FCAT and results were reported in terms of the new achievement levels; 1999 Legislature authorized expansion of FCAT to all grades 3-10; new development contract with Harcourt Educational Measurement and new administration contract with NCS Pearson.
- 2000 Third statewide administration of FCAT in grades 4, 5, 8, and 10; field tests were conducted for all of the “new” grade level combinations.
- 2001 Fourth statewide administration of FCAT at all grades 3-10; grade ten students required to pass the test for award of a high school diploma. In August 2001, the State Board of Education adopted passing scores for the grade ten test, and in December 2001 the Board adopted achievement levels for the “new” grade levels being added to the FCAT program.
- 2002 Fifth statewide administration of FCAT; measurement of gains in student proficiency possible for the first time; science assessment being field tested.