



2020–21 Florida Statewide Grade-Level Assessments Fact Sheet

Florida Grade-Level Assessments Overview

This fact sheet provides information regarding the grades 3–10 English Language Arts (ELA) and grades 3–8 mathematics assessments that measure student achievement of the [Florida Standards](#), and the grades 5 and 8 science assessments that measure student achievement of the [Next Generation Sunshine State Standards](#) (NGSSS). For information on the Florida end-of-course (EOC) assessments, see the [2020–21 Florida Statewide End-of-Course Assessments Fact Sheet](#).

Students to Be Tested

- Students enrolled in grades 3–10 participate in ELA assessments.
 - All students participate in ELA Reading.
 - Students enrolled in grades 4–10 also participate in ELA Writing.
 - Retained grade 10 or grades 11–12 students who have not yet met the grade 10 ELA graduation requirement may participate in the ELA Retake assessment.
- Students enrolled in grades 3–8 participate in mathematics assessments.
 - In accordance with [section 1008.22\(3\)\(b\)2](#), Florida Statutes (F.S.), middle grades students will not be tested on both a grade-level mathematics assessment and a mathematics EOC assessment. Students enrolled in Algebra 1 or Geometry must take the corresponding EOC assessment, not the grade-level mathematics assessment.
- Students enrolled in grades 5 and 8 participate in the Statewide Science assessments.
 - In accordance with [section 1008.22\(3\)\(b\)2](#), F.S., middle grades students may not be tested on both the grade-level Statewide Science assessment and the Biology 1 EOC assessment. Students enrolled in Biology 1 must take the EOC assessment, not the grade-level Statewide Science assessment.
- Students receiving accelerated instruction may participate in the appropriate assessment above grade level. Students may not participate in an assessment below their enrolled grade level.

Test Administration Schedule

For a full schedule of all statewide assessments, see the [2020–2021 Statewide Assessment Schedule](#). Flexibility will be offered this year based on district shifts in school year calendars.

Test Administration Information

- In 2020–21, the following grade-level assessments are delivered in a paper-based format:
 - Grade 3 ELA Reading
 - Grades 4–6 ELA (Writing and Reading)
 - Grades 3–6 Mathematics
 - Grades 5 and 8 Science
 - Large print, one-item-per-page, and braille accommodations are provided for students with disabilities who require them, as specified in their Individual Educational Plans (IEP) or Section 504 Plans.

- In 2020–21, the following grade-level assessments are delivered in a computer-based format:
 - Grades 7–10 ELA (Writing and Reading), including Retake
 - Grades 7–8 Mathematics
 - Computer-based tests (CBT) are delivered via a CBT platform called the Test Delivery System.
 - Paper-based versions (regular print, large print, braille, and one-item-per-page) of CBT assessments are provided for students with disabilities who cannot access assessments on the computer as specified in their IEPs or Section 504 Plans.
 - CBT accommodations (e.g., text-to-speech) are available for students whose IEPs indicate these accommodations.
- **ELA Writing**
 - The Writing component of the ELA assessment consists of one text-based constructed-response item (students read a variety of texts and respond to a prompt).
 - Grades 4–6 students take ELA Writing on paper and have [three lined pages](#) on which to write their responses.
 - Grades 7–10/Retake students take ELA Writing on computer and type their responses in a text box.
 - Grades 4–10 ELA Writing tests are administered in one 120-minute session.
 - The ELA Writing Retake is one 120-minute session, but students may use up to half the length of a typical school day to complete the test.
 - All students, whether testing on paper or computer, are provided with a [Writing Planning Sheet](#) to plan their writing.
- **ELA Reading**
 - ELA Reading assessments contain 56–66 items.
 - ELA Reading sessions are administered over two days. Test session lengths are as follows:
 - Grades 3–5: Two 80-minute sessions
 - Grades 6–8: Two 85-minute sessions
 - Grades 9–10: Two 90-minute sessions
 - The ELA Reading Retake is administered in two 90-minute sessions, but students may use up to half the length of a typical school day to complete each session.
 - Students are provided [CBT Worksheets](#) for each computer-based ELA Reading session.
 - For grades 7–10/Retake ELA Reading tests, students will respond to some items associated with audio or multimedia passages. Students must have headphones or earbuds to access the passages. For information about the types of accommodations available for ELA Reading audio passages for eligible students with an IEP or Section 504 Plan, see the [Accommodations Guide](#).
- **Mathematics**
 - Mathematics assessments contain 56–66 items.
 - Mathematics sessions are administered over two days. Test session lengths are as follows:
 - Grades 3–5: Two 80-minute sessions
 - Grades 6–8: Three 60-minute sessions*

* Schools are required to administer Session 1 on day one and Sessions 2 and 3 on day two.
 - Students are provided [CBT Work Folders](#) for each computer-based Mathematics session.
 - A scientific calculator is provided as part of the CBT platform for **Sessions 2 and 3 only** of grades 7 and 8 Mathematics. The calculator is available for practice on the [Florida Statewide Assessments Portal](#). Reference sheets are provided for some Mathematics assessments. Please see the [Calculator and Reference Sheet Policies for Florida Statewide Assessments](#) for more information. **Calculators are not permitted for grades 3–6 Mathematics.**

- **Science**
 - Science assessments contain 60–66 items.
 - Science assessments are administered in two 80-minute sessions.
 - Grade 5 Science is administered over two days.
 - Grade 8 Science is administered in one day.
 - Students taking the grade 8 Science assessment will receive a hand-held, four-function calculator and a Periodic Table of the Elements for use during the assessment. Please see the [Calculator and Reference Sheet Policies for Florida Statewide Assessments](#) for more information.
- The **Test Design Summary** for each subject area provides a map or blueprint for how each assessment is designed. The summaries show the possible item types, standards assessed within each reporting category, and the representation of each category, in percentages, on the test.
 - ELA (Reading and Writing): [FSA ELA Test Design Summary and Blueprint](#)
 - Mathematics: [FSA Mathematics Test Design Summary and Blueprint](#)
 - Science: [NGSSS Test Design Summary](#)

Practice Tests

- Practice test materials allow teachers, parents/guardians, and students to become familiar with the various item types that will be encountered on the assessments, as well as the system, functionality and tools on computer-based tests.
- Computer-based and paper-based **practice tests** for each assessment, paper-based **test item practice** handouts, and guided tutorials for responding to items on grades 3–6 paper-based tests are available on the [Portal Practice Test Page](#).
- Districts will order paper-based large print, one-item-per-page, and braille practice materials for students participating with these accommodations.
- Students taking a computer-based test participate in a practice test session at their schools prior to testing.
- Schools are strongly encouraged to provide practice opportunities for students who will take paper-based tests by using one of the resources provided on the [portal](#).

Achievement Levels and Scale Scores

Student performance on Florida’s statewide assessments is categorized into five achievement levels. Table 1 provides information regarding student performance at each achievement level; this information is provided on student reports so that students, parents, and educators may interpret student results in a meaningful way.

Table 1. Achievement Levels

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
Inadequate: Highly likely to need substantial support for the next grade	Below Satisfactory: Likely to need substantial support for the next grade	Satisfactory: May need additional support for the next grade	Proficient: Likely to excel in the next grade	Mastery: Highly likely to excel in the next grade

Achievement Level Descriptions further specify what students should know and be able to do in each grade level and subject as indicated in the applicable standards and can be found at the links below:

- [FSA Achievement Level Descriptions](#) (ELA and Mathematics)
- [Grade 5 NGSSS Science Achievement Level Descriptions](#)
- [Grade 8 NGSSS Science Achievement Level Descriptions](#)

Achievement level scale score ranges for Florida’s statewide assessments are adopted by the State Board of Education as represented by [State Board of Education Rule 6A-1.09422](#), Florida Administrative Code. The lowest score in Level 3 is the passing score for each grade level and subject. The table below shows the score ranges for each achievement level on the applicable score scale. For grades 4–10 ELA, a combined score is reported that includes student performance on both the Writing and Reading components.

Table 2. Grade-Level Assessment Scale Scores for Each Achievement Level

Assessment		Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
FSA English Language Arts Scale Scores (240–412) for Each Achievement Level	Grade 3	240–284	285–299	300–314	315–329	330–360
	Grade 4	251–296	297–310	311–324	325–339	340–372
	Grade 5	257–303	304–320	321–335	336–351	352–385
	Grade 6	259–308	309–325	326–338	339–355	356–391
	Grade 7	267–317	318–332	333–345	346–359	360–397
	Grade 8	274–321	322–336	337–351	352–365	366–403
	Grade 9	276–327	328–342	343–354	355–369	370–407
FSA Mathematics Scale Scores (240–393) for Each Achievement Level	Grade 3	240–284	285–296	297–310	311–326	327–360
	Grade 4	251–298	299–309	310–324	325–339	340–376
	Grade 5	256–305	306–319	320–333	334–349	350–388
	Grade 6	260–309	310–324	325–338	339–355	356–390
	Grade 7	269–315	316–329	330–345	346–359	360–391
	Grade 8	273–321	322–336	337–352	353–364	365–393
NGSSS Science Scale Scores (140–260) for Each Achievement Level	Grade 5	140–184	185–199	200–214	215–224	225–260
	Grade 8	140–184	185–202	203–214	215–224	225–260

Additional Information

- Students in grade 3 must achieve a Level 2 or higher on the grade 3 ELA Reading assessment for promotion purposes. For more information on this requirement, as well as good cause exemption information for students who score in Level 1, please see the [Third Grade Guidance](#) page on the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) website.
- [Reading Scholarships](#) are available for eligible grades 3–5 students enrolled in a public school who scored below a Level 3 on the grade 3 or grade 4 statewide, standardized ELA assessment in the prior school year.
- Students with an IEP or Section 504 Plan, as well as English Language Learners (ELLs), may be eligible for allowable accommodations on statewide assessments. For more information about accommodations, please see the [Accommodations Guide](#).
- Students who entered grade 9 in 2013–14 and beyond must pass the Grade 10 FSA ELA assessment for graduation purposes. For more information, including concordant score and alternate passing score information, please see [Graduation Requirements for Statewide Assessments](#).

- For more information on student reports, reporting categories, and achievement level cut scores, please see [Understanding Florida Statewide Assessment Reports](#).
- The [Statewide Assessment Program Information Guide](#) describes the processes involved in developing, administering, and scoring the Florida Standards Assessments (FSA) and NGSSS assessments.
- For more information on the standard-setting process, please visit the [Standard Setting](#) page on the FDOE website.

Please visit the [FDOE website](#) and the [Florida Statewide Assessments Portal](#) for more information about the statewide assessment program.