

### *The Financial Cost of the FCAT<sup>1</sup>*

The statewide assessment program is funded using a combination of general revenue and federal sources. Department of Education employees and contracted staff direct and monitor the various activities required to develop, implement, and maintain a large-scale assessment program; however, contracts are necessary to operationalize the program. As the FCAT program has changed and expanded, the cost to provide the associated services has changed as well. The current testing program includes Reading and Mathematics (both CRT and NRT components<sup>2</sup>), Writing (essay), and Science.

The table below shows the separate total annual contracting costs for development and administration, scoring, and reporting. The per student costs are based on the total annual cost of the program.

Fiscal Year	K-12 Testing Program Costs			
	CRT Development and the NRT	Administration, Scoring, and Reporting	Total Fiscal Year Cost	Cost per PK-12 Student
1996 <sup>3</sup>	\$4,805,687	\$2,434,906	\$9,675,499	\$4.44
1997 <sup>3</sup>	\$6,900,000	\$2,561,594	\$12,023,188	\$5.37
1998 <sup>3</sup>	\$5,974,768	\$3,210,615	\$12,395,998	\$5.40
1999 <sup>3</sup>	\$8,770,666	\$2,977,593	\$14,725,852	\$6.30
2000	\$2,779,500	\$24,188,657	\$28,016,442	\$11.79
2001	\$5,625,942	\$21,749,558	\$28,159,278	\$11.59
2002	\$5,792,768	\$31,501,746	\$38,076,440	\$15.26
2003	\$7,115,060	\$33,663,006	\$41,700,354	\$16.45
2004	\$10,449,697	\$31,824,095	\$42,945,838	\$16.57
2005	\$13,008,010	\$30,518,314	\$44,061,305	\$16.69
2006	\$14,617,082	\$26,071,392	\$40,688,474	\$15.25
2007	\$13,777,993	\$26,547,890	\$40,325,883	\$15.14
2008	\$20,939,058	\$30,638,310	\$51,577,368	\$19.44

<sup>1</sup> This figure includes the cost of the HSCT and the cost of the Florida Writing Assessment before it was included as part of the FCAT.

<sup>2</sup> CRT stands for criterion-referenced test, and NRT stands for norm-referenced test. The Florida CRT, or the standards-based test, assesses student learning of the Sunshine State Standards. The Florida NRT is the Stanford Achievement Test series.

<sup>3</sup> From 1996 to 1999, development also included some administration, scoring, and reporting costs.