FLORIDA CELLA FACT SHEET

COMPREHENSIVE ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING ASSESSMENT

What is CELLA?

Florida uses the Comprehensive English Language Learning Assessment (CELLA) to measure the growth of students classified as English Language Learners (ELLs) in mastering the skills in English they will need to succeed in school.

CELLA is a four-skill language proficiency assessment developed under contract by Educational Testing Service (ETS) that is designed to provide:

- Evidence of program accountability in accordance with Title III of No Child Left Behind (NCLB), which calls for schools and districts to meet state accountability objectives for increasing the English-language proficiency of English Language Learners.
- Data useful for charting student progress over time and, for the newly arrived students; charting progress over the first year.
- Information about the language proficiency levels of individual students that can be used in making decisions regarding placement into, or exit from English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) programs.
- Diagnostically useful information about students' strengths and weaknesses in English (with as much specificity as possible within the limitations of a large-scale standardized test.)

What does CELLA contain?

The CELLA tests four areas:

- Listening
- Speaking
- Reading
- Writing

These sections are included in each of the four test levels: Level A (Grades K-2), Level B (Grades 3-5), Level C (Grades 6-8) and Level D (Grades 9-12).

Students will take the Listening, Reading, and Writing sections as a group. For the Speaking section, students will have a one-on-one interview with a teacher. (Younger students may have the entire test individually administered by a teacher.)

It is recommended that students take the CELLA test level that corresponds to their grade level; however, since there can be a wide range of English language proficiency levels within a grade, CELLA offers *functional level* testing. With functional level testing, students take the Listening and Speaking sections that correspond to their grade level, but may take the Reading and Writing sections one level below their grade level.

The Locator Test is a short test consisting of 18 multiple-choice reading questions and is designed to help determine which level of Reading and Writing assessment—A, B, C, or D—is most appropriate for each student.

For Level A, it is recommended that the entire test be individually administered to students in kindergarten. Students in grades 1 and 2 will take the Listening, Reading, and Writing sections in small groups and will have the One-on-One section individually administered. In addition to the items taken by students in grades K–1, students in grade 2 will also take additional "Extension" items in Reading and Writing. The Speaking section will be individually administered. It takes approximately 30 minutes to administer the Locator Test.

Test Overview for **Level A**

Sections	Administration Features	Approx. Time* Gr. K–1	Approx. Time* Gr. 2
Listening	• Small-group administered (Individual administration is recommended for kindergarten) • Teacher reads script or plays CD	15 min.	15 min.
Reading (Grade 2 includes "extension")	• Small-group administered (Individual administration is recommended for kindergarten)	15 min.	35 min.
Writing (Grade 2 includes "extension")	• Small-group administered (Individual administration is recommended for kindergarten)	15 min.	30 min.
One-on-One	• Individually administered to all Level A students (K–2)	15 min.	15 min.

Times do not include time to distribute materials and complete demographic information.

Test Overview for **Levels B, C, D**:

Sections	Administration Features	Approximate Time*
Listening	• Group administered • Teacher reads script or plays CD	25 min.
Speaking	• Individually administered • Teacher reads script	10–15 min.
Reading	• Group administered	45 min.
Writing	• Group administered	70 min.

Times do not include time to distribute materials and complete demographic information.