



Florida Department of Education

March 2013

As we roll into March, we know that Florida educators have been receiving lots of data from various sources throughout the year. Having been a reading coach and working closely with data myself, I know how daunting all of this information can be. It is important that we take a step back and view the data as “assessments *for* learning,” as opposed to “assessments *of* learning.” As teachers, it is our responsibility to take a child from what he or she currently knows (Point A) and move him or her to knowing all of the benchmarks for your class (Point B). Sometimes students may be starting with a deficit and are able to make it closer to Point B, but not completely reach it. This is learning growth and should be celebrated. Sometimes students will surpass Point B; this too should be encouraged and celebrated. Regardless of where students’ Point A is at the beginning of their year in your class, their movement toward and perhaps beyond Point B is what we do as teachers. Data gained from sources such as FCAT, FAIR, formative assessments, etc., is information that will help you determine each student’s Point A and how close he or she is to reaching Point B. In the words of William Shakespeare, “All the world’s a stage, and all the men and women merely players.” We are teachers, and this is our role to play.

Kelly Seay

Educator Liaison

Teacher Treasures

March Giveaway

Our March [Teacher Treasures](#) Giveaway will be a set of 24 hardback copies of [The Prince of Fenway Park](#), written by Florida author, Julianna Baggott. One of the books has a special message on the inside cover from Commissioner Tony Bennett. Stay tuned for more information on upcoming Teacher Treasures giveaways for 50 teachers!

Education Conferences

State Science and Engineering Fair of Florida

The 58th [State Science and Engineering Fair](#) of Florida is March 26-27, 2013, at the Lakeland Center in Lakeland, Florida. The exhibit hall opens to the public on March 27 from 7:00 PM – 9:30 p.m.

Curriculum Corner

CPALMS

[CPALMS](#) has developed some very supportive resources that are available online to help Florida educators be successful with new state standards. Current CPALMS' initiatives include lesson plan development, activities development, peer and subject area expert reviews, curriculum mapping, videos, and much more. In addition, the [iCPALMS](#) platform has 14 new web applications.

ScienceMathMaster

[ScienceMathMaster](#) is professional development for high school biology and geometry teachers composed of face-to-face professional development workshops and on-line science and math resources for teachers, including modules, videos, coursework examples, demonstration ideas and curriculum tools.

Boardworks Education

[Boardworks Education](#) provides fantastic resources that are specifically written to [Common Core](#) and Next Generation Sunshine State Standards. Boardworks is designed for engaging whole class teaching to help maximize the benefits of existing [21st Century classroom technology](#) (interactive whiteboards, projectors, 1-t-1 initiatives, etc.).

*** All listed resources are free and included for informational purposes. Note: The FDOE does not endorse products or services unless specifically developed by the department.*

Education News

Student Astronaut Challenge

The 2013 [Student Astronaut Challenge](#) will take place in Tallahassee, March 8 – 10. Eight qualifying teams from around the state will have the unique opportunity to compete in aerospace science challenges including performance in a space flight simulator. The competition will take place at the Tallahassee Regional Airport.

Graduation Requirements for Florida's Statewide Assessments

The Graduation Requirements for Florida's Statewide Assessments document has been updated to reflect newly established ACT and SAT concordant scores that may be used to satisfy the Grade 10 FCAT 2.0 Reading graduation requirement for students required to earn a passing scale score of 245, as well as to include passing score information for the Biology 1 and Geometry EOC Assessments. You may access this revised document at <http://fcat.fldoe.org/pdf/fcatpass.pdf>.



As the spring 2013 testing season approaches, the Florida Department of Education's **Bureau of K-12 Student Assessment** wants to ensure that you have all of the necessary information about the FCAT 2.0 and Florida End-of-Course (EOC) Assessments. FCAT 2.0 Reading, Mathematics, and Science will be administered from April 15 – 26, 2013 (FCAT and FCAT 2.0 retakes begin April 8.) Florida EOC Assessment testing windows occur in late April and throughout May. Teachers are encouraged to review the [statewide assessment schedules](#) and consult the school assessment coordinator for scheduling details, such as those related to computer-based testing.

First, and most importantly, please encourage your students to do their best! To learn more about the statewide assessments, you should check out the fact sheets, frequently asked questions, test item specifications, sample questions and answers, and other resources that may be accessed from the [FCAT 2.0 homepage](#) and [EOC assessments homepage](#). Important training materials, test administration manuals, and practice tests for each computer-based test (ePATs) may be found in [PearsonAccess](#) under the *Support* tab. If you are administering both paper-based and computer-based tests, you will need to review the training materials pertaining to both testing formats.

It is imperative that you know the test security policies and procedures outlined in the 2013 test administration manual(s) so you are prepared for all of your responsibilities. For instance, test administrators are required to maintain an accurate seating chart for each group of students in their rooms during testing. All school personnel, including itinerant teachers and proctors, must receive the necessary training and sign the required security agreements. All designated test administrators must be certified educators.

We also encourage you to be mindful of testing policies that should be communicated to students and parents/guardians prior to test administration. In particular, school personnel must ensure that students do not have access to their cell phones or other electronic devices at any time during testing, including breaks (restroom breaks, etc.). If a student is found to be in possession of ANY electronic devices during testing or during a break, the student's test must be invalidated. You may want to encourage your students to leave these devices at home or in their lockers on testing days. To help students prepare for testing, the department prepared student-level PowerPoint presentations that review important information, such as how to correctly mark answers, computer-based testing tools, and policies. You may access these presentations in [PearsonAccess](#) under the *Support* tab.

Finally, when testing is completed, please take a moment to complete a comment form, found in the *Support and ePATs* sections of [PearsonAccess](#). Thank you for all that you do to improve the quality of education in our great state!