

FACT SHEET



High School Juniors and Seniors

What is the FCAT?

The Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test® (FCAT) is part of Florida's overall plan to increase student achievement by implementing higher standards. The FCAT program includes assessments in the following areas:

- Writing for students in grades 4, 8, and 10
- Reading and Mathematics for students in grades 3 through 10
- Science for students in grades 5, 8, and 11

Do I have to pass the FCAT to graduate?

Yes, but one single test does not determine graduation. The law is very specific in that no student can receive a standard high school diploma from a Florida public school unless that student has met all academic requirements. This means that students must take required courses, earn the correct number of credits, earn the required minimum cumulative grade point average, and pass the required Grade 10 FCAT Reading and Mathematics tests to graduate. Certain students with disabilities may have the FCAT graduation requirement waived in accordance with s. 1003.43, F.S.

How many chances do I have to pass the FCAT?

From the 10th grade through the 12th grade, **most students have six chances to pass the FCAT.** FCAT retakes are administered in the Fall, Spring, and Summer to 11th and 12th graders.

What scores do I need to pass the FCAT?

You must earn a minimum developmental scale score of 1926 on the Grade 10 FCAT Reading and a minimum developmental scale score of 1889 on the Grade 10 FCAT Mathematics.

Passing the Grade 10 FCAT Writing+ test was scheduled to become a graduation requirement beginning in 2010. However, this requirement has been delayed until further notice by the State Board of Education.

Where can I go to get help?

Make an appointment to see your guidance counselor immediately.



For more
information
about
the FCAT,
contact:

Office of Assessment
Florida Department of Education
325 West Gaines Street, Suite 414
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0400
Phone: (850) 245-0513 or Fax: (850) 245-0771
<http://fcat.fldoe.org>



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What kind of assistance can I receive from my school?

- Your school should ensure that you have a current Progress Monitoring Plan.
- If you did not pass the Reading portion, you will be enrolled in an intensive reading class.
- If you did not pass the Mathematics portion, you will be enrolled in an intensive mathematics class.

What are my options if I don't pass the FCAT during my senior year?

- Take the SAT and/or ACT to earn concordant passing scores. If you have not passed after taking the FCAT three times, you may substitute concordant scores from the SAT or ACT for passing FCAT scores (a new student who enters the Florida public school system in 12th grade may use the concordant score option without having to take the FCAT three times).

Concordant Scores			
	Reading		Mathematics
FCAT	1926	FCAT	1889
SAT	410	SAT	370
ACT	15	ACT	15

- Continue your high school education through summer school or return to high school the following year for additional instruction or remediation.
- Adult Education Standard High School Diploma (must pass the FCAT)
- GED Exit Option
- Take the Common Placement Test (CPT) to see if you can begin taking community college courses for credit. Students with a Certificate of Completion are eligible.

What can I do to help myself pass the FCAT?

- Attend all remediation classes/activities.
- Make sure that you have talked with your guidance counselor regarding your options.
- If you need help in reading, make sure that you are enrolled in a remedial reading program.
- If you need help in mathematics, make sure that you are enrolled in a remedial mathematics program.
- Sign up for the online assistance program, FCAT Explorer – you can work on this at home.
- Ask for a mentor or a tutor.
- Make sure that you have a well-balanced diet. A healthy body is important to a healthy mind.
- Complete your homework assignments. Homework supports classroom instruction and will help you master classroom work.
- Make sure you are well rested on the day of the test.
- Arrive on time for school.
- Practice by using the released FCAT tests and sample test materials at <http://fcat.fldoe.org>

Florida Department of Education | Bureau of Family and Community Outreach
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