

FACT SHEET



High School Juniors and Seniors

What is the FCAT?

The Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test® (FCAT) is the foundation of the statewide educational assessment and accountability program. 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, Mathematics, and Writing tests to graduate.

How many chances do I have to pass the FCAT?

If you don't pass the first time, you will have more opportunities to take the test. FCAT retakes are administered in the Fall, Spring, and Summer to 11th and 12th graders. From the 10th grade through the 12th grade, **most students have six chances to pass the FCAT.**

What scores do I need to pass the FCAT?

You must earn a minimum developmental scale score of 1926 on the Grade 10 Reading FCAT and a minimum developmental scale score of 1889 on the Grade 10 Mathematics FCAT. Generally all students (except certain students with disabilities), including those who transfer from another state with passing scores on a previous statewide assessment, must earn passing scores on the FCAT before receiving a standard Florida high school diploma.

In accordance with s. 1008.22(3)(c), F.S., the Grade 10 FCAT Writing+ test will become a graduation requirement beginning in 2010. This means that a student enrolled in Grade 9 for the first time in the 2006-07 school year must achieve a passing score on the Grade 10 FCAT Writing+ assessment in addition to the current reading and mathematics requirements in order to graduate with a standard high school diploma.

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 Suncom 205-0513, Fax: (850) 245-0771
<http://fcat.fldoe.org>



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What kind of assistance can I receive from my school?

- Make sure you have a current Academic Improvement Plan.
- Make sure you are enrolled in the proper remedial courses.
- If you failed the Reading portion, make sure that you are enrolled in an intensive reading class.
- If you failed the Mathematics portion, make sure that you are enrolled in an intensive Mathematics class.

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

- Take the SAT or ACT to earn concordant passing scores
- 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
- Common Placement Test (CPT)—Eligible Certificate of Completion
- Additional flexibility for military-dependent students who transfer to Florida during their senior year

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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