



2022–23 Florida Statewide Science Assessments Fact Sheet

Florida Statewide Science Assessments Overview

This fact sheet provides information regarding the grades 5 and 8 science assessments that measure student achievement of the [Next Generation Sunshine State Standards](#) (NGSSS).

Students to Be Tested

- Students enrolled in grades 5 and 8 participate in the Statewide Science Assessments.
 - In accordance with [section 1008.22\(3\)\(b\)2](#), Florida Statutes, middle grades students may not be tested on both the grade-level Statewide Science Assessment and the Biology 1 EOC assessment. Students enrolled in Biology 1 must take the EOC assessment, not the grade-level Statewide Science Assessment.
- Students receiving accelerated instruction may participate in the appropriate assessment above grade level. Students may not participate in an assessment below their enrolled grade level.

Test Administration Schedule

The testing window for grades 5 and 8 Science is **May 8–19, 2023**. For a full schedule of all statewide assessments, see the [2022–2023 Statewide Assessment Schedule](#).

Test Administration Information

- Grades 5 and 8 Science are delivered in a paper-based format. Students receive a test book with test items and enter their responses in a separate answer book.
- Large print, one-item-per-page, and braille accommodations are provided for students with disabilities who require them, as specified in their Individual Educational Plans (IEP) or Section 504 Plans.
- Science assessments contain 60–66 items.
- Science assessments are administered in two 80-minute sessions.
 - Grade 5 Science is administered over two days.
 - Grade 8 Science is administered in one day.
- Students taking the grade 8 Science assessment will receive a hand-held, four-function calculator and a Periodic Table of the Elements for use during the assessment. Please see the [Calculator and Reference Sheet Policies for Florida Statewide Assessments](#) for more information.
- The [NGSSS Test Design Summary](#) provides a map or blueprint for how each assessment is designed. The summary shows the possible item types, standards assessed within each reporting category, and the representation of each category, in percentages, on the test.

Practice Tests

- Practice test materials allow teachers, parents/guardians, and students to become familiar with the various item types that will be encountered on the assessments.
- [Practice tests](#) are available on the portal. For resources to better understand the standards to which the assessments are aligned, please visit [CPALMS](#).

- Districts may order paper-based large print, one-item-per-page, and braille practice materials for students participating with these accommodations.

Achievement Levels and Scale Scores

Student performance on Florida’s statewide assessments is categorized into five achievement levels. Table 1 provides information regarding student performance at each achievement level; this information is provided on student reports so that students, parents, and educators may interpret student results in a meaningful way.

Table 1. Achievement Levels

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
Inadequate: Highly likely to need substantial support for the next grade	Below Satisfactory: Likely to need substantial support for the next grade	Satisfactory: May need additional support for the next grade	Proficient: Likely to excel in the next grade	Mastery: Highly likely to excel in the next grade

Achievement Level Descriptions further specify what students should know and be able to do in each grade level and subject as indicated in the applicable standards and can be found at the links below:

- [Grade 5 NGSSS Science Achievement Level Descriptions](#)
- [Grade 8 NGSSS Science Achievement Level Descriptions](#)

Achievement level scale score ranges for Florida’s statewide assessments are adopted by the State Board of Education as represented by [State Board of Education Rule 6A-1.09422](#), Florida Administrative Code. The lowest score in Level 3 is the passing score for each grade level and subject. The table below shows the score ranges for each achievement level on the applicable score scale.

Table 2. Grade-Level Assessment Scale Scores for Each Achievement Level

Assessment	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
Grade 5 Science	140–184	185–199	200 –214	215–224	225–260
Grade 8 Science	140–184	185–202	203 –214	215–224	225–260

Additional Information

- Students with an IEP or Section 504 Plan, as well as English Language Learners (ELLs), may be eligible for allowable accommodations on statewide assessments. For more information about accommodations, please see the [Accommodations Guide](#).
- The [Statewide Assessments Guide](#) describes the processes involved in developing, administering, and scoring the Science assessments.
- Please visit the [FDOE website](#) and the [Florida Statewide Assessments Portal](#) for more information about the statewide assessment program.