

2023–24 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 [state academic standards](#).

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 end-of-course (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 1–31, 2024**. For a full schedule of all statewide assessments, see the [2023–2024 Statewide Assessment Schedule](#).

Test Administration Information

- Beginning in Spring 2024, Grades 5 and 8 Science will be delivered via a computer-based test (CBT) platform called the Test Delivery System.
- Paper-based versions (regular print, large print, braille, and one-item-per-page) of CBT assessments are provided for students with disabilities who cannot access assessments on the computer as specified in their Individual Educational Plans (IEP) or Section 504 Plans.
- CBT accommodations (e.g., text-to-speech) are available for students whose IEPs or Section 504 Plans indicate these accommodations.
- Science assessments contain 48–54 items.
- Science assessments are administered in one 160-minute session with a short break after the first 80 minutes. Any student not finished by the end of the 160-minute session may continue working for up to the length of a typical school day.
- For Grade 8 Science, students are provided two-page [CBT Worksheets](#) to work the problems.
- For Grade 5 Science, schools may provide students with blank scratch paper to take notes.
- For Grade 8 Science, students are provided with a four-function calculator and Periodic Table of the Elements in the CBT platform. The calculator is available for practice on the [Florida Statewide Assessments Portal](#). The [Calculator and Reference Sheet Policies for Florida Statewide Assessments](#) document provides more information regarding calculator and reference sheet policies for all assessments.
- The [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 type of items that will be encountered on the assessments, as well as the system, functionality, and tools on the online platform.
- Computer-based and paper-based practice tests and answer keys for each assessment will be available on the [Students & Families portal](#) page. 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. Beginning in Spring 2024, results for Statewide Science assessments will be reported in the Florida Reporting System within 24 hours of student testing. 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	On Grade Level: 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 Science Achievement Level Descriptions](#)
- [Grade 8 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](#).
- Please visit the [FDOE website](#) and the [Florida Statewide Assessments Portal](#) for more information about the statewide assessment program.