

2015–16 FSA English Language Arts and Mathematics Fact Sheet

English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics Overview

This fact sheet provides information on grades 3–10 ELA and grades 3–8 mathematics assessments that measure student achievement of the Florida Standards. For information on FSA End-of-Course (EOC) assessments, see the [2015–16 FSA End-of-Course Assessments Fact Sheet](#).

Students to Be Tested in 2015–16

- Students enrolled in grades 3–10 will participate in FSA ELA assessments.
 - All students will participate in ELA Reading.
 - Students enrolled in grades 4–10 will participate in ELA Writing.
 - Students who did not pass the Grade 10 ELA assessment in spring 2015 will participate in the ELA Retake.
- Students enrolled in grades 3–8 will participate in FSA Mathematics assessments.
 - In accordance with Section 1008.22(3)(b)1, Florida Statutes, middle grades students will not be tested on both FSA Mathematics and a mathematics EOC assessment. Students enrolled in Algebra 1, Geometry, or Algebra 2 will take the corresponding EOC assessment, not the grade-level mathematics assessment.

Spring 2016 Test Administration Schedule

- **February 29–March 4, 2016**
 - Paper-Based FSA ELA Writing (Grades 4–7/Grades 8–10 & Retake CBT accommodations)
- **February 29–March 11, 2016**
 - Computer-Based FSA ELA Writing (Grades 8–10 & Retake)
- **March 28–April 8*, 2016**
 - FSA ELA (Grade 3) and Mathematics (Grades 3–4)
 - FSA Grade 10 ELA Retake (Reading)
- **April 11–May 6*, 2016**
 - FSA ELA (Grades 4–10) and FSA Mathematics (Grades 5–8)

*Paper-based accommodations for computer-based tests must be returned to the contractor on established pickup dates prior to the end of the window to be included in regular reporting.

For a full schedule of all statewide assessments, see the [2015-16 Statewide Assessment Schedule](#).

Test Administration Information

- In 2015–16, the following FSA assessments are delivered in a paper-based format:
 - Grade 3 FSA ELA Reading Component
 - Grades 3–4 Mathematics
 - Grades 4–7 FSA ELA Writing Component
- In 2015–16, the following FSA assessments are delivered in a computer-based format:
 - Grades 8–10 & Retake ELA Writing
 - Grades 4–10 & Retake ELA Reading
 - Grades 5–8 Mathematics

- Paper-based versions (regular print, large print, one-item-per-page and braille) of computer-based tests (CBT) are provided for students with disabilities who cannot access assessments on the computer, as specified in their Individual Educational Plans (IEPs) or Section 504 plans.
- CBT accommodations (e.g., text-to-speech) are available for students whose IEPs indicate these accommodations.
- **ELA Writing**
 - The ELA Writing test consists of one text-based constructed-response item (students read a variety of texts and respond to a prompt).
 - Grades 4-10 ELA Writing tests are administered in one 120-minute session.
 - The ELA Writing Retake is one 120-minute session, but students may use up to half the length of a typical school day to complete the test.
 - All students (PBT and CBT) are provided with a one-page planning sheet to plan their writing. A sample of the Writing Planning Sheet is available on the [FSA portal](#).
- **ELA Reading and Mathematics**
 - ELA Reading and Mathematics assessments contain 56-66 items.
 - Six to 10 of the items on each assessment are field test items and are NOT used to calculate student scores.
 - More information, including the number of items range for each assessment, can be found in the Test Design Summary located on the [FSA portal](#).
 - FSA ELA and Mathematics Sessions are administered over two days. Test session lengths are as follows:
 - ELA Reading
 - Grades 3-5 – Two 80-minute sessions
 - Grades 6-8 – Two 85-minute sessions
 - Grades 9-10 – Two 90-minute sessions
 - The ELA Reading Retake is two 90-minute sessions, but students may use up to half the length of a typical school day to complete each session.
 - ELA Mathematics
 - Grades 3-5 – Two 80-minute sessions
 - Grades 6-8 – Three 60-minute sessions*
 - * Schools are required to administer Session 1 on day one and Sessions 2 and 3 on day two.
 - Four-page CBT Work Folders are provided for each mathematics session. A sample of the work folder is available on the [FSA portal](#).
 - Two-page CBT Worksheets are provided for each reading session for note-taking. A sample of the worksheet is available on the [FSA portal](#).
 - For ELA Reading tests, student will respond to items associated with a listening passage. Students must have headphones or earbuds to access the passage.
 - A scientific calculator is provided as part of the CBT platform for **Sessions 2 and 3 only** of grades 7 and 8 FSA Mathematics. The calculator is available for practice on the [FSA portal](#).

Practice Tests

- Computer-based and paper-based **practice tests** for each assessment are available on the [FSA portal](#). Practice tests allow teachers, parents/guardians, and students to become familiar with the system, functionality, tools, and item types that will be encountered on the FSA. For resources to help your student better understand the Florida Standards, please visit [CPALMS](#).
- Students are required to participate in a practice test session at their school prior to testing.

Achievement Levels and FSA 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 (ALDs) further specify what students should know and be able to do in each grade level and subject as indicated in the Florida Standards. The FSA ALDs are available on the [Standard Setting page](#) on the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) website.

Achievement level cut scores for FSA assessments were adopted in [State Board of Education Rule 6A-1.09422](#), Florida Administrative Code, in January 2016. 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 FSA score scale.

Table 2. FSA Scale Scores for Each Achievement Level

Assessment		Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
English Language Arts Scale Scores (240-412) for Each Achievement Level	Grade 3 ELA	240-284	285-299	300 -314	315-329	330-360
	Grade 4 ELA	251-296	297-310	311 -324	325-339	340-372
	Grade 5 ELA	257-303	304-320	321 -335	336-351	352-385
	Grade 6 ELA	259-308	309-325	326 -338	339-355	356-391
	Grade 7 ELA	267-317	318-332	333 -345	346-359	360-397
	Grade 8 ELA	274-321	322-336	337 -351	352-365	366-403
	Grade 9 ELA	276-327	328-342	343 -354	355-369	370-407
	Grade 10 ELA	284-333	334-349	350 -361	362-377	378-412
Mathematics Scale Scores (240-393) for Each Achievement Level	Grade 3 Mathematics	240-284	285-296	297 -310	311-326	327-360
	Grade 4 Mathematics	251-298	299-309	310 -324	325-339	340-376
	Grade 5 Mathematics	256-305	306-319	320 -333	334-349	350-388
	Grade 6 Mathematics	260-309	310-324	325 -338	339-355	356-390
	Grade 7 Mathematics	269-315	316-329	330 -345	346-359	360-391
	Grade 8 Mathematics	273-321	322-336	337 -352	353-364	365-393

Additional Information

- Calculators and reference sheets are provided for some mathematics assessments. Please see the [Calculator and Reference Sheet Policies for Florida Standards Assessments \(FSA\) Mathematics Assessments](#) document for more information.

- Students in grade 3 must achieve a Level 2 or higher on the FSA ELA Reading assessment for promotion purposes. For more information on this requirement, as well as good cause exemption information for students who score at Level 1, please see the [Third Grade Guidance page](#) on the FDOE website.
- Students in grade 10 must pass the FSA ELA for graduation purposes. For more information, including concordant score and alternate passing score information, please see [Graduation Requirements for Statewide Assessments](#).
- Scores for spring 2015 FSA assessments were reported on a T-score scale for Grades 3-9 ELA and Grades 5-8 Mathematics, and linked scores for Grade 10 ELA were reported on the FCAT 2.0 score scale. For more information on these scores, please see [Understanding FSA Reports](#). Achievement level cut scores for FSA ELA and Mathematics assessments were established in January 2016 (see Table 2). For more information on the standard-setting process, please visit the [Standard Setting page](#) on the FDOE website.
- Students with IEPs or Section 504 plans, as well as English Language Learners (ELLs), may be eligible for allowable accommodations on statewide assessments.

Please visit the [FDOE website](#) and the [FSA portal](#) for more information about the statewide assessment program.