



2025–26 Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST) Fact Sheet Grades 3–10 ELA Reading and Grades 3–8 Mathematics

FAST Overview

Florida’s English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics Coordinated Screening and Progress Monitoring System, also called the Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST), required in section [1008.25\(9\)](#), Florida Statutes, was administered for the first time during the 2022–2023 school year. This fact sheet provides an overview of the FAST system for grades 3–10 ELA Reading and grades 3–8 Mathematics.

Grades 3–10 FAST Overview

- Grades 3–10 FAST ELA Reading and grades 3–8 FAST Mathematics assessments are aligned to the [Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking \(B.E.S.T.\) Standards](#).
- FAST assessments are computer adaptive. Items that each student receives will be selected to meet blueprint requirements and will adjust item difficulty levels based on how the student responds.
- FAST assessments are administered three times during each school year: once at the beginning of the year (PM1), once in the middle of the year (PM2), and once at the end of the year (PM3).
- Each PM event is tied to a blueprint for the full grade-level content. The [ELA](#) and [Mathematics](#) blueprints show how many items in each reporting category students will encounter during each PM window.
- Here are descriptions of each PM opportunity for students:
 - **PM1** – because this administration occurs at the very beginning of the school year, it is designed to provide a baseline score so teachers can track student progress in learning the B.E.S.T. Standards from PM1 to PM2.
 - **PM2** – by the time of this administration window, students will have had an opportunity to learn the grade-level standards, and this administration will provide a mid-year score to compare to the baseline score from PM1.
 - **PM3** – this last administration will provide a summative score that will accurately measure student mastery of the B.E.S.T. Standards at the end of the school year. While PM1 and PM2 are for informational purposes only, PM3 is used for school accountability.

Administration Windows

The following windows have been established to provide schools with maximum scheduling flexibility; they do not reflect the amount of time one school will spend administering tests.

- PM1: August 11–September 26, 2025
- PM2: December 1, 2025–January 23, 2026
- PM3: May 1–May 29, 2026

For a full schedule of Florida’s statewide assessments, see the [2025–2026 Statewide Assessment Schedule](#).

Session Lengths

All FAST assessments are administered in one session in one day, and it is recommended that students only take one subject test per day.

Grades/Subject	PM1 and PM2	PM3
Grades 3–10 ELA Reading	90 Minutes	120 Minutes
Grades 3–5 Mathematics	80 Minutes	100 Minutes
Grades 6–8 Mathematics	100 Minutes	120 Minutes

Note: The PM3 administration is slightly longer than PM1 and PM2 because the assessments contain embedded field test items.

The Bureau of K–12 Student Assessment provides scheduling guidance in the test administration manual and scripts. For scheduling purposes, a session length is provided, but students who are still working at the end of that time may be provided the time needed to complete the test, up to the end of the school day.

Testing Systems

All grades 3–10 FAST assessments will be administered and reported using the following systems:

Testing System	Use
Test Information Distribution Engine (TIDE)	Online Management/Student Data
Test Delivery System (TDS) with Secure Browser	Online Test Delivery
Florida Reporting System (FRS)	Results Reporting
Family Portal	Results for Parents

FAST Mathematics

Please note the following information specific to FAST Mathematics:

- Students must be provided with blank scratch paper for all FAST Mathematics tests.
- Students will access and use the calculator provided in the student testing platform for grades 6–8 FAST Mathematics. Students can familiarize themselves with the calculator online:
 - [Grade 6 \(four-function\)](#)
 - [Grades 7 and 8 \(scientific\)](#)
- Allowable handheld calculators are permitted if districts choose to allow/provide them.
- Online mathematics reference sheets are available in the testing platform for students in grades 4–8.
- For more information about calculators and reference sheets, please refer to the [Florida Statewide Assessments Calculator and Reference Sheet Policies](#) document.

Grades 3–10 FAST Reporting

Results for FAST assessments are reported in FRS within 24 hours of the student completing testing, and scores are reported on the [B.E.S.T. scale](#) approved by the State Board of Education. For more information on the standard setting process that established the B.E.S.T. scale, please visit the [Standard Setting](#) page on the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) website.

Student performance on Florida’s statewide assessments is categorized into five achievement levels. The [FAST 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. Achievement levels describe a student’s success with the content assessed. As required by state law, achievement levels range from 1 to 5, with Level 1 as the lowest and Level 5 as the highest. Achievement Level 3 indicates On Grade Level performance across all assessments. A breakdown of achievement levels for each assessment is provided below.

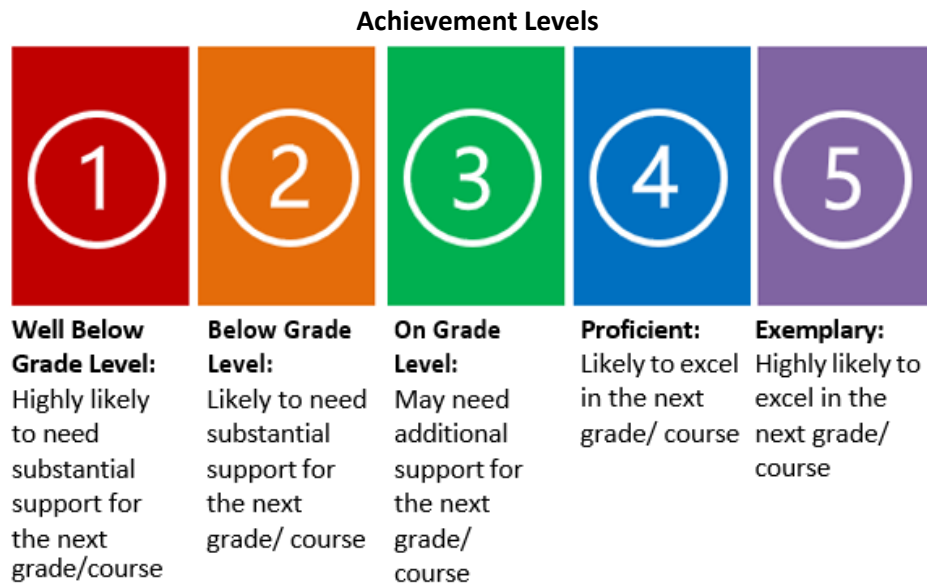


Table 1. B.E.S.T. Scale Score Ranges for Each Achievement Level on FAST Assessments

Assessment	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
Grade 3 ELA Reading	140–185	186–200	201–212	213–224	225–260
Grade 4 ELA Reading	154–198	199–212	213–223	224–236	237–270
Grade 5 ELA Reading	160–205	206–221	222–231	232–245	246–279
Grade 6 ELA Reading	161–208	209–224	225–236	237–249	250–284
Grade 7 ELA Reading	165–214	215–231	232–241	242–256	257–292
Grade 8 ELA Reading	169–219	220–237	238–250	251–261	262–300
Grade 9 ELA Reading	174–223	224–241	242–253	254–266	267–303
Grade 10 ELA Reading	179–229	230–246	247–257	258–270	271–308
ELA Reading Retake	179–229	230–246	247–257	258–270	271–308
Grade 3 Mathematics	140–182	183–197	198–208	209–224	225–260
Grade 4 Mathematics	155–199	200–210	211–220	221–237	238–273
Grade 5 Mathematics	158–206	207–221	222–233	234–245	246–285
Grade 6 Mathematics	168–212	213–228	229–238	239–253	254–287
Grade 7 Mathematics	175–222	223–234	235–246	247–257	258–288
Grade 8 Mathematics	183–226	227–243	244–253	254–262	263–291

The following information is reported for grades 3–10 FAST ELA Reading and grades 3–8 FAST Mathematics:

- Students will receive an overall scale score and achievement level on the B.E.S.T. scale.
- Students will also receive performance information for each reporting category.
- Teachers will see results, by benchmark, at the student- and classroom-level.
- School and districts will see all results at the school- and district-level.
- FDOE reports percentile ranks at the student level for parents, schools, and districts.

PM1 and PM2

It is important for teachers and families to understand that this information is intended to provide baseline and mid-year results for PM1 and PM2 respectively. Therefore, for PM1 and PM2, students may not yet be at grade level; however, this does not necessarily indicate that a student is not on track to succeed. These results are for informational purposes only and should be used to identify areas that may need additional instruction and support. These results should not be considered student achievement designations.

PM3

PM3 provides a summative score at the end of the year to measure student mastery of the grade-level content standards.

Additional information and sample reports may be found in [Understanding Florida Statewide Assessments Reports](#).

Sample Items

Sample items are aligned to the B.E.S.T. Standards and allow teachers, parents/guardians, and students to become familiar with the various item types that will be encountered on the assessments, as well as the system, functionality, and tools on computer-based tests. Please note the following:

- While students are encouraged to use the sample items, practice test sessions are not required prior to testing.
- For students taking grades 6–8 Mathematics, it is strongly encouraged that they become familiar with the online calculator prior to testing.
- [Sample test materials for paper-based accommodations](#) are also available.

Online sample items may be accessed through the [Sample Items site](#) on the Florida Statewide Assessments Portal.

Released Tests

Section 1008.22(8), Florida Statutes (F.S.), requires the Department to publish each statewide, standardized assessment administered at least once every three years. Each released test contains items that were delivered to students in the school year during which it was released, covers the test blueprint, and is the average length of an operational assessment. The tests can be accessed from the [sample items](#) page on the portal, and [Test Release Support](#) documents are posted that include answer keys, the percentage of students that answered each item correctly, the reporting category that each item belongs to, and item benchmark information.

Remote Testing

Remote testing is available for grades 3–10 FAST assessments during PM1 and PM2 only for students enrolled full-time in a virtual school program or for those students who are hospital/homebound. Resources for administering tests remotely can be found on the [Florida Statewide Assessments Portal](#).

Remote testing is not available for PM3, B.E.S.T. Writing, grades 5 & 8 Science, EOCs, K–12 FCLE, or FAST ELA Reading Retake administrations, except in limited exceptions for students enrolled in FLVS whose family members are in the military and stationed outside of Florida.

Additional Information

- Students in grade 3 must achieve a Level 2 or higher on PM3 of the Grade 3 FAST ELA Reading Assessment for promotion purposes. In addition, a Grade 3 FAST ELA Reading opportunity will be offered each summer. For more information on this promotion requirement, as well as good cause exemption information for students who score in Level 1, please see the [Third Grade Guidance page](#) on the FDOE website.
- Students must pass the PM3 of the Grade 10 FAST ELA Reading assessment for graduation purposes. Four retake opportunities are available throughout the year for students who do not meet this requirement in the spring. See the [Statewide Assessment Schedule](#) for information about FAST ELA Reading Retake administration windows. For more information about concordant score and alternate passing score information, please see [Graduation Requirements for Statewide Assessments](#).
- The New Worlds Reading Initiative provides free books for eligible students in VPK through Grade 5 who are not yet meeting grade level expectations in Reading. For more information, see the [New Worlds Reading site](#).
- Students with an Individual Educational Plan (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 [2025–2026 Statewide Assessments Accommodations Guide](#).

Please visit the [FDOE website](#) and the [Florida Statewide Assessments Portal](#) for more information about the statewide assessment program.