



Statewide Assessment Updates

Florida Organization of Instructional Leaders
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FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF
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Topics

- Testing Requirements
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- K–2 Testing Updates
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- Florida Teacher Certification Exam (FTCE)
- Florida Advanced Courses and Tests (FACT)
- Resources



Testing Requirements

Statewide Assessments

Section (s.) [1008.22\(3\)](#), Florida Statutes (F.S.), states:
“Participation in the assessment program is mandatory for all school districts and all students attending public schools, including adult students seeking a standard high school diploma under s. [1003.4282](#) and students in Department of Juvenile Justice education programs, except as otherwise provided by law. If a student does not participate in the assessment program, the school district must notify the student’s parent and provide the parent with information regarding the implications of such nonparticipation.”

Students to be Tested – English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics

- **Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST) ELA Reading** – all students in grades 3–10 participate in Progress Monitoring (PM) 1, PM2 and PM3.
- **FAST Mathematics** – all students in grades 3–8 participate in PM1, PM2 and PM3.
 - Students in middle grades enrolled in an Algebra 1 or Geometry EOC course do not participate in the FAST; they are required to take the end-of-course (EOC) assessment only.
- **Benchmark for Excellent Student Thinking (B.E.S.T.) Writing** – all students in grades 4–10 participate in the spring.

Students to be Tested – EOCs

- **Algebra 1, Biology 1, Civics, Geometry, U.S. History**
 - All students enrolled in and completing a course associated with the EOC participate in the assessment.
 - Courses associated with EOCs are listed on the Fact Sheets:
 - [B.E.S.T. Algebra 1 and Geometry EOC Fact Sheet](#)
 - [Science and Social Studies EOC Fact Sheet](#)

Students to be Tested – Science

- All students enrolled in grades 5 and 8 participate in the Statewide Science Assessment in the spring.
 - Students in grade 8 enrolled in a Biology 1 EOC course do not participate in grade 8 Science; they are required to take the EOC only.
 - Students in grades 5 and 8 enrolled in a science course that does not have an associated statewide EOC (e.g., physical science) are required to participate in the Statewide Science Assessment.

Students to be Tested – Retakes

- **FAST ELA Reading**

- Any student who did not pass FAST PM3 in grade 10 is eligible to participate in the FAST ELA Reading Retake.
- Retained grade 10 students and students enrolled in grades 11 or 12 take the Retake, not the grade 10 test.

- **Algebra 1 EOC**

- Any students who still need to pass the Algebra 1 EOC may participate in any of the four EOC administration windows.
- Students may also satisfy their graduation requirement by earning a concordant or comparative score (see [Graduation Requirements for Florida's Statewide Assessments](#)).

Students to be Tested – FCLE

- All students enrolled in a U.S. Government course are required to participate.
 - Courses associated with the FCLE are listed on the [FCLE Fact Sheet](#).
 - Students not enrolled in one of the listed courses who wish to take the assessment to satisfy the postsecondary graduation requirement are eligible to participate.

Florida Alternate Assessment (FAA)

- Per s. [1008.22](#), F.S., students with the most significant cognitive disabilities who have met the eligibility criteria of Rule 6A-1.0943(5), Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), may participate in the FAA if it is indicated on their individual educational plans.
- The criteria in [Rule 6A-1.0943\(5\)](#), F.A.C., should be used to determine if a student with a significant cognitive disability is eligible to participate in the FAA.

Florida Alternate Assessment (FAA)

- **FAA—Performance Task**

- For students with significant cognitive disabilities who are receiving instruction in Access Points.
- Designed to assess students at three levels of complexity and results are reported through achievement levels.

- **FAA—Datafolio**

- For students with the most significant cognitive disabilities who typically do not have a formal mode of communication and are working at pre-academic levels.
- Designed to show student progress on a continuum of *access toward academic content* rather than mastery of academic content.

English Language Proficiency Assessment (WIDA ACCESS)

- Rule [6A-6.09021](#), F.A.C., details the requirement to assess students designated as ELLs.
- Four testing domains:
 - Speaking
 - Listening
 - Reading
 - Writing
- The assessment was administered online for the first time in Florida in the 2025–26 school year.

Exemption Options

- **Extraordinary Exemption**

- One-year, two-year, three-year or permanent exemption may be requested.
- Must be submitted to and approved by the Commissioner of Education.

- **Medical Complexity**

- A one-year exemption approved by the school district superintendent as described in s. 1008.22(12), F.S.
- One-year, two-year, three-year or permanent exemption requests may be sent to the Commissioner of Education for approval.
- Eligibility requirements, as well as required documentation, can be found in Rule [6A-1.0943](#), F.A.C.

Special Program Students

Each district is responsible for testing the following students who reside in the district:

- Students enrolled in the Florida Virtual School (FLVS) Full Time program;
- Students enrolled in the FLVS Flex program;
- Students enrolled in the district's Virtual Instruction Program (VIP) or in a district FLVS franchise;
- Students enrolled in a virtual charter school; and
- Upon parent request, students enrolled in the district's Home Education Program, Personalized Education Program (PEP) students and private school students enrolled in state-funded scholarship programs.

FLVS Test Administrator Requirement

- [Senate Bill 124](#), passed during the 2026 legislative session, requires districts/schools, beginning July 1, to provide a test administrator along with access to testing facilities for FLVS students.
- Amends s. [1002.37](#), F.S., The Florida Virtual School.—
(10)(d) Unless an alternative testing site is mutually agreed to by the Florida Virtual School and the school district or as contracted under s. 1008.24, all industry certification examinations, national assessments, progress monitoring under s. 1008.25(9), and statewide assessments must be taken at the school to which the student would be assigned according to district school board attendance areas. A school district must provide the student with access to the school's testing facilities, a test administrator, and the date and time of the administration of progress monitoring and each examination or assessment.



Summer Testing

Summer 2026

- **The following statewide assessments are offered in the summer:**
 - Grade 3 FAST ELA Reading
 - FAST ELA Reading Retake
 - Algebra 1, Biology 1, Civics, Geometry and U.S. History EOCs
- **Two-week Testing Window**
 - June 22–26, 2026
 - July 13–17, 2026
- Districts/schools may use both weeks to test, but individual students may take a test only once in the summer.



K–2 Testing Updates

K–2 Florida Specific Items

- The Office of Assessment, and the Test Development Center (TDC) specifically, in collaboration with the Bureau of Standards and Instructional Support, Just Read, Florida! and vendor staff have been developing a Florida-specific item bank with test items that align with B.E.S.T. Standards for these grade levels.
 - These items have appeared on tests as field test items and operational items since Spring 2024.
 - Florida-specific items are prioritized in the computer-adaptive test (CAT) algorithm for K–2 FAST assessments.



Rule Development

Rule 6A-1.09422, F.A.C., Rule Development

- [Notice](#)
- [Draft Rule Language](#)
- [Submit Comments](#)
- A workshop was held on May 20, 2026. A recording and transcript of the workshop, as well as a PDF of the presentation, can be found on the [Standard Setting](#) page.
- The proposed rule is scheduled to be presented at the July 22, 2026, State Board of Education Meeting.

Rule 6A-1.09422, F.A.C., Rule Development

- Three changes are being proposed in this development:
 - Changing the language around when concordant/comparison scores must be earned:

3. Beginning in the 2026-2027 school year, first-time grade ten students may only use concordant scores pursuant to subparagraph (8)(a)2. earned after the spring administration (PM3) of the grade ten statewide, standardized ELA assessment of their grade ten school year.
 - Removing B.E.S.T. Writing Scale Scores from Rule.
 - Designating the Florida Advanced Courses and Tests (FACT) U.S. History assessment for use in lieu of the Florida U.S. History EOC, so that students taking the FACT U.S. History course may take the FACT assessment to meet their EOC requirement.
- The first change does not apply to 10th graders in the 2025–26 (current) school year.



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FCLE

Florida Civic Literacy Requirement

- Florida Statutes
 - s. [1007.25\(4\)](#), F.S.
 - s. [1003.4282\(3\)\(d\)](#), F.S.
 - s. [1008.23\(1\)](#), F.S.
 - s. [1008.24\(1\)](#), F.S.
- Board of Governors Regulation
 - [8.006](#)
- Florida College System Rule
 - [6A-10.02413](#), F.A.C.

FCLE Competencies

- Test items for the FCLE are based on competencies that describe the content to be covered by a test.
- FCLE competencies cover the knowledge necessary to demonstrate the postsecondary requirement for civic literacy, as outlined in statute:
 - Understanding of the basic principles and practices of American democracy and how they are applied in our republican form of government;
 - An understanding of the United States Constitution and its application;
 - Knowledge of the founding documents and how they have shaped the nature and functions of our institutions of self-government; and
 - An understanding of landmark Supreme Court cases, landmark legislation and landmark executive actions and their impact on law and society.

Target Test-Taking Population

- FCLE test items are written for a Florida high school or first-time-in-college postsecondary examinee who has sufficient knowledge of the four competencies described on the previous slide:
 - American democracy;
 - the U.S. Constitution;
 - the founding documents; and
 - landmark legislative, executive and judicial actions.
- K–12 schools and postsecondary institutions make local determinations about where dual enrollment students will take the FCLE (at high school or college/university).

Target Test-Taking Population

- While students who are taking AMHX020 or POSX041 to meet U.S. Government course requirements are required to take the FCLE, Florida College System (FCS) and State University System (SUS) professors teaching those courses are not expected to modify the courses to incorporate the FCLE outcomes.
- Institutions may choose to use FCLE scores as part of course grades but are not required to do so. This is a local decision.

Updates to the FCLE and Item Review

- In early 2021, the Department began the process to revise the FCLE and to take steps to increase test security.
- In July 2021, a review was conducted by 30 content experts representing faculty from FCS, SUS, The Lou Frey Institute and the Bill of Rights Institute.
- The required passing score remains 60%.
- Test content is updated and refreshed on an ongoing basis, with no changes to the test blueprint, scoring and reporting, and item- or form-level difficulty.

Test Preparation and Study Guides

- All preparation material available for the current form applies to subsequent versions of any newer form. Such materials can be accessed at the [Postsecondary Civics Literacy](#) page on the Department website.
- The Department has worked with partners in the field to produce and publish a [Supplemental Guide](#).
- [FCLE Sample items](#) have been developed at the same level of rigor and complexity of the items seen by examinees.



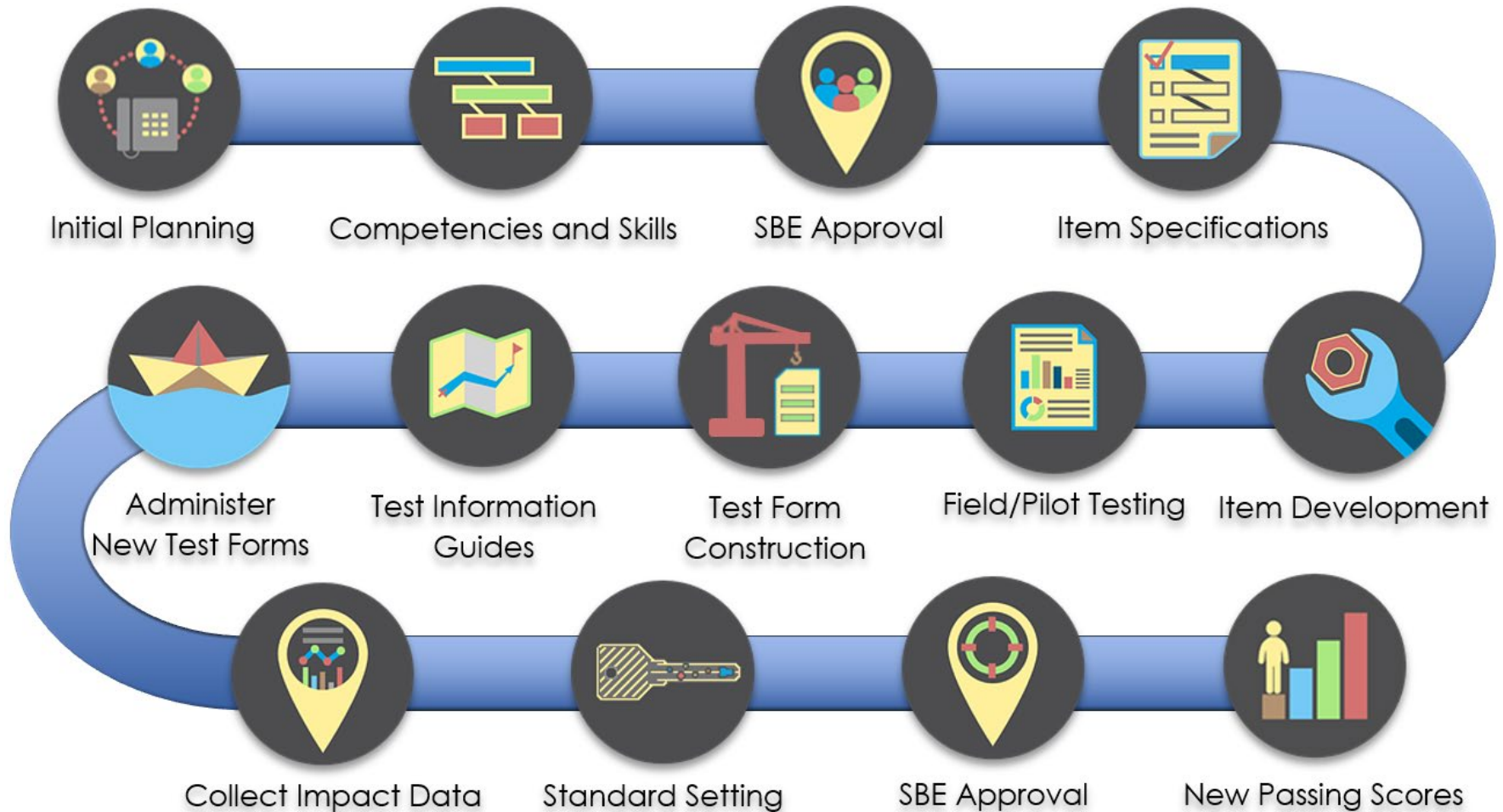
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FTCE

FTCE

- Social Science test development activities begin soon.
 - Competencies and Skills Meeting: July 14–15
- Goal: Align teacher certification tests to reflect changes in state academic standards.
- Which FTCE tests are impacted?
 - Elementary Education K–6 (Social Science)
 - Middle Grades Social Science 5–9
 - Social Science Grades 6–12

FTCE/FELE Test Development Process



How Can I Participate the FTCE Development Process?

Pearson Recruitment Link

<https://www.floridacertexam.nesinc.com/>





FACT

FACT College Algebra

- Pilot course and assessment in the 2025–26 school year.
- Full implementation in the 2026–27 school year.
- Information on the assessment is posted to the [Florida Advanced Courses and Tests \(FACT\)](#) webpage.

FACT U.S. History

- Pilot course and assessment in the 2026–27 school year.
 - Applications to participate were due by May 18, 2026.
 - Participating teachers are required to attend a Summer Institute on **June 24–June 25, 2026**, in Tallahassee.
- Full implementation in the 2027–28 school year.
- Students who pass the FACT U.S. History assessment with a sufficiently high score (exact metric to be identified at a later date) will receive college credit for both AMH 2010 and AMH 2020 upon enrolling in any public college or university in the state of Florida.
- Students with a sufficiently high score will also satisfy their postsecondary civic literacy requirement.
- Students with lower passing scores will be given credit for AMH X000: Introductory Survey, which awards college credit but not as an approved general education course.



Resources

FAST/B.E.S.T. Resources

- The following grades 3–10 and EOC resources are currently available on the [FAST portal](#):
 - Manuals and Guides
 - [Spring/Summer 2026 Test Administration Manual](#)
 - [Test Administration and Security Agreement](#)
 - [Statewide Assessments Accommodations Guide](#)
 - [TIDE User Guide](#)
 - Reporting
 - [Understanding Florida Statewide Assessments Reports for Families](#) (also available in Spanish)
 - [Understanding Florida Reporting System \(FRS\) Reports](#)

FAST/B.E.S.T. Resources (cont.)

- The following grades 3–10 and EOC resources are currently available on the [FAST portal](#):
 - Policy
 - [CAT Testing FAQs for FAST K–2 and 3–10](#)
 - [Fact Sheets](#)
 - [Statewide Assessments Guide](#)
 - [Graduation Requirements for Florida’s Statewide Assessments](#)

QUESTIONS?

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