



## MATHEMATICS-AT-HOME PLAN RESOURCES

A mathematics-at-home plan is required to be provided to parents of any student in a Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Program provided by a public school who exhibits a substantial deficiency in early mathematics skills and any K-4 student who has been identified with a substantial deficiency in mathematics as stated in [Rule 6A-6.0533, Florida Administrative Code \(F.A.C.\), Determining Substantial Math Deficiency](#).

The Florida Department of Education has compiled resources that each district must include in a mathematics-at-home plan provided to the parent of a student who is identified as having a substantial mathematics deficiency. A home-based plan includes information and resources connected to the areas of emphasis for each grade level. These resources are available in an electronic format that is accessible online, and a hardcopy of such resources must be provided by the school upon parent request. To access these resources digitally, click on each link provided.

This document is intended to be utilized in conjunction with each district-supplied mathematics-at-home plan as required by [Section \(s.\) 1008.25\(6\), Florida Statutes \(F.S.\)](#).

## FLORIDA’S BENCHMARKS FOR EXCELLENT STUDENT THINKING STANDARDS

### *Mathematics-at-Home Plan Resources*

#### **Supports for Parental Involvement**

The Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking (B.E.S.T.) Standards for Mathematics constitute the foundational mathematical benchmarks for Florida students, serving to ensure the delivery of a world-class education that prepares students for prosperous futures in college, military and career opportunities. Parental involvement is an important part of a student’s education. To foster a collaborative and supportive educational environment, the Florida Department of Education has implemented comprehensive measures to engage parents of students, including those who have been identified as having a deficiency in mathematics. Recognizing the importance of family engagement in a student’s educational journey, dedicated Parent Guides have been crafted to provide families with insights into the B.E.S.T. Mathematics Standards. For more information, please visit <https://www.fldoe.org/academics/standards/subject-areas/math-science/mathematics/parent-resources.stml>.

#### **Mathematics Deficiency and Parental Notification**

Any student in a VPK Education Program provided by a public school who exhibits a substantial deficiency in early mathematics skills and any student in kindergarten through grade 4 who exhibits a substantial deficiency in mathematics or the characteristics of dyscalculia based upon screening, diagnostic, progress monitoring or assessment data; statewide assessments; or teacher observations must:

- Be provided systematic and explicit mathematics instruction through daily targeted small group mathematics intervention or supplemental, evidence-based mathematics interventions before or after school, or both, delivered by a highly qualified teacher of mathematics or a trained tutor.
- The student’s performance must be monitored and adjusted based on student need, until the student demonstrates grade level proficiency in a manner determined by the district.

Parents will immediately receive notification in writing:

- That his or her child has been identified as having a substantial deficiency in mathematics, including a description of the deficiency.
- Explanation of the exact nature of the student’s difficulty in learning and lack of achievement in mathematics.
- Description of the current services that are provided.
- Description of the proposed intensive interventions and supports that will be provided to the child that are designed to remediate the identified area of mathematics deficiency and timely updates.
- Strategies through a home-based plan the parent can use in helping his or her child succeed in mathematics, including access to resources.
- Information about the student’s eligibility for the New Worlds Scholarship Accounts and the district’s tutoring services provided through the New Worlds Tutoring Program.

#### **K–4 Mathematics Deficiency Portal**

The Florida Department of Education has launched a website to provide parents and families with direct access to high-quality, easy-to-use resources that support students identified with a substantial deficiency in mathematics in grades K-4. This website includes at-home lessons and activities aligned to the B.E.S.T. Standards. These resources are designed to reinforce your child’s learning at home, help you understand the areas of mathematics in which your child needs support, and promote family involvement in your child’s academic success.

To explore these resources, visit [www.FLMath4ALL.org](http://www.FLMath4ALL.org).

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#### **School Choice**

Florida recognizes the significant role education plays in a child's life along with the right of parents to find the best education for their child. The Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice supports quality public and private education choice programs. Within this expansive framework, parents can navigate through an array of educational choices, ensuring a tailored approach that aligns with the unique learning requirements of their children. This includes access to scholarships, private and charter schools, reflecting the commitment of Florida to provide a comprehensive spectrum of educational opportunities. The Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice is a valuable repository of information regarding education options. For more information, please visit <https://www.fldoe.org/schools/school-choice/>.

#### **Division of Early Learning**

Early education can be an important time during a student's educational career. In partnership with 30 early learning coalitions and the Redlands Christian Migrant Association, the Division of Early Learning oversees three programs: School Readiness, VPK and Child Care Resource and Referral. These programs collectively play a role in shaping the early educational experiences of students, laying a foundation for future academic success. Parents can access resources that will help them choose the right provider for their child and family. For more information, please visit <https://www.fldoe.org/schools/early-learning/parents/>.

#### **Military Families**

Florida hosts the 5<sup>th</sup> largest population of active-duty service personnel spanning all five branches of the United States Military. A dependent child of an active member of the armed forces may be eligible for educational opportunities under either branch of the Family Empowerment Scholarship Program (see [s. 1002.394, F.S.](#)). Families may receive financial assistance for tutoring and access to added education options, such as transportation, private school or other customized learning services and materials for students as young as 3 years of age. For more information, please visit <https://www.fldoe.org/schools/school-choice/other-school-choice-options/military-families/>.

#### **Identifying and Evaluating a Student for Exceptional Student Education**

When a parent or caregiver is concerned about a student who is performing significantly below grade level expectations or suspects that a student may have a disability, consider the following information:

- A medical diagnosis alone is insufficient to determine eligibility for exceptional student education. It is additional information that can be considered when collecting and reviewing student-specific data (information).
- Based on federal regulations, after completing the administration of assessments and other evaluation measures, the school district and a group of qualified professionals consisting of the parent and school staff determine if the child meets eligibility criteria for a disability category (Title 34, s. 300.306, Code of Federal Regulations).
- If a parent submits documentation from a licensed psychologist or licensed school psychologist (Chapter 490, Florida Statutes) that demonstrates that a student has been diagnosed with dyscalculia and also identifies the student's specific areas of difficulty, then evidence-based interventions must be initiated upon receipt of that documentation (see [s. 1008.25\(6\), F.S.](#)).

The [Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services](#) provides resources to guide parents, teachers and caregivers through the process of identifying and evaluating a student who is suspected of being a student with a disability and in need of exceptional student education and related services.

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#### **Characteristics of Specific Learning Disability**

Specific Learning Disability is a term that describes an Exceptional Student Education eligibility category that refers to learning disorders that can affect a student’s ability to read, write, listen, speak, reason and apply basic math skills. Rule 6A-6.03018, F.A.C., Exceptional Education Eligibility for Students with Specific Learning Disabilities, defines a specific learning disability as “a disorder in one or more of the basic learning processes involved in understanding or in using language, spoken or written, that may manifest in significant difficulties affecting the ability to listen, speak, read, write, spell or do mathematics.” Dyscalculia is included among the “associated conditions” of a specific learning disability.

Dyscalculia is a specific learning disability in mathematics. It affects areas of the brain that deal with number-related skills and understanding. The primary characteristics of dyscalculia could include the following: number sense, memorization of math facts, calculation and mathematical reasoning. When determining if a student exhibits characteristic(s) of dyscalculia, at least one of these characteristics should have persisted for at least six months despite interventions, and skills should be substantially below those expected for grade level.

Prekindergarten and Kindergarten	Grades 1-4
<p>Building a solid foundation in mathematics involves many different skills. Young children/students with learning disabilities may have difficulty:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Recognizing numbers and matching numbers with amounts (e.g., connecting the number 3 to that many objects in front of them).</li><li>➤ Sorting objects by shape, size or color.</li><li>➤ Recognizing groups and patterns.</li><li>➤ Comparing and contrasting using concepts like smaller/bigger or taller/shorter.</li><li>➤ Organizing numbers, such as largest to smallest or first to last.</li></ul>	<p>As mathematics learning continues through the elementary grades, students with learning disabilities may have difficulty:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Doing simple calculations from memory.</li><li>➤ Solving basic math problems using addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.</li><li>➤ Figuring out how to apply their knowledge and skills to solve math problems.</li><li>➤ Recognizing and using number lines.</li><li>➤ Learning to use money (i.e., coins or bills).</li><li>➤ Reading an analog clock.</li><li>➤ Retaining basic math facts (e.g., memorizing multiplication tables).</li><li>➤ Understanding place value, often putting numbers in the wrong column.</li><li>➤ Understanding word problems or more advanced symbols (i.e., &gt; meaning “greater than” or &lt; meaning “less than”).</li><li>➤ Organizing numbers by scale (10s, 100s, 1,000s) or decimal place (0.1, 0.01, 0.001).</li><li>➤ Understanding what is written on a board or in a textbook due to visual-spatial difficulties.</li></ul>

For more information, please visit <https://www.fldoe.org/academics/exceptional-student-edu/ese-eligibility/specific-learning-disabilities-sld/index.stml>.

#### **English Language Learners**

English Language Learners (ELLs) have a wide variety of supports available to increase essential performance in mathematics. Recognizing the unique needs of ELLs, each LEA has crafted an individualized English Language Learner Plan, which serves as a strategic blueprint outlining targeted strategies and valuable resources aimed at fostering the academic success of ELLs. More information may be found at <https://www.fldoe.org/academics/eng-language-learners/index.stml>.

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#### **New Worlds Scholarship Account**

The New Worlds Scholarship Account provide \$1,200 scholarships to eligible VPK-5 students who:

- show a substantial deficiency in early literacy or early mathematics skills,
- show a substantial deficiency in reading or mathematics,
- exhibit characteristics of dyslexia or dyscalculia, or
- score below a level 3 on the most recent statewide, standardized English Language Arts (ELA) or mathematics assessment.

The program offers parents/guardians access to education savings accounts to pay for tuition and fees related to part-time tutoring, summer and after-school literacy or mathematics programs, and instructional materials. Your child may be eligible for a New Worlds Scholarship Account. For more information, please visit

<https://www.fldoe.org/schools/school-choice/k-12-scholarship-programs/reading/>.

#### **New Worlds Tutoring Program**

In addition to the resources and interventions provided through this plan, your child may be eligible to receive free, high-quality tutoring through the New Worlds Tutoring Program. This program is available to students who have been identified as having a substantial deficiency in mathematics and is designed to support student success through individualized, evidence-based instruction. To learn more about the New Worlds Tutoring Program and determine your child’s eligibility, please contact your child’s school or visit

<https://lastinger.center.ufl.edu/florida-tutoring-advantage/>.

#### **B.E.S.T. Mathematics Parent Guides**

To support your involvement in your child's mathematics education, the Florida Department of Education offers B.E.S.T. Mathematics Parent Guides. These guides help families understand the key mathematical concepts and skills their children will learn each school year. They include:

- Overviews of grade-level expectations
- Definitions of important academic terms
- Practical activities to reinforce learning at home
- Questions to facilitate discussions with teachers

Each guide aligns with Florida’s Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking (B.E.S.T.) Standards for Mathematics.

To access the guides for your child's grade level, visit the B.E.S.T. Mathematics Parent Resources page:

<https://www.fldoe.org/academics/standards/subject-areas/math-science/mathematics/parent-resources.stml>

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#### Overview of Assessment Types

As students progress from kindergarten, they should be steadily developing the skills needed to become grade-level mathematicians. While students are learning to do math, educators and parents can monitor students to see if they are on track with grade-level expectations. Florida uses various types of assessments to monitor students' progress in mathematics.

ASSESSMENT	PURPOSE
Screening	The purpose of screening is to identify the likelihood (probability) of risk or success in mathematics achievement. Educators can also use screening to measure the effectiveness of Tier 1, or core, instruction in the classroom and identify students needing more intensive interventions and supports (Tier 2 and 3 supports).
Progress Monitoring	The purpose of progress monitoring is to determine whether students are learning the skills taught throughout the school year. Progress monitoring can be done at the state level or the local level. Progress monitoring can also be referred to as interim assessments.
Diagnostic	The purpose of a diagnostic assessment is to identify a student's strengths and weaknesses for students identified as at-risk on a screening assessment.
Formative	The purpose of formative assessments is to monitor student learning to provide ongoing feedback that can be used by educators to identify the current state of the learner's knowledge and skills. More specifically, educators can use formative assessment on a regular basis to monitor student learning and adjust their current instruction to meet the needs of the learner in real time.
Summative	The purpose of summative, or outcome, assessments is to evaluate students' performance relative to a set of content standards generally administered at the end of the school year.

#### Statewide Mathematics Assessments

All Florida students participate in the state's assessment and accountability system. The primary goal of these assessments is to provide information about student learning in Florida, as required by Florida law (see [s. 1008.22, F.S.](#)).

- Coordinated Screening and Progress Monitoring System: Also known as the Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST), these assessments provide information in mastering grade-level standards for PreK-8 and provide information on students' progress to parents, teachers and school and program administrators. FAST assessments are administered during three Progress Monitoring (PM) windows: beginning of the school year (PM1), middle of the school year (PM2) and end of the school year (PM3). *\*For grades 3-8 FAST Mathematics PM3: In accordance with s. 1008.22(3)(a), F.S., PM3 will be considered the statewide, standardized assessment in mathematics and will be used for accountability purposes.*
- Florida Alternate Assessment (FAA): The FAA is aligned with Access Points - Alternate Academic Achievement Standards (AP-AAAS). AP-AAAS reflects the most salient content of Florida's statewide academic achievement standards that apply to all students in the same grade. Students with a most significant cognitive disability who meet the criteria in the [Rule 6A-1.0943, F.A.C., Statewide Assessment for Students with Disabilities](#), may participate in the FAA if their individual educational plan team determines it is the most appropriate assessment option.

For more information regarding FAST assessments, please visit [fldoe.org/accountability/assessments/k-12-student-assessment/best/](http://fldoe.org/accountability/assessments/k-12-student-assessment/best/). For resources related to FAST assessments, visit [ffast.org/fast.html](http://ffast.org/fast.html).