

## 2017–18 Florida Standards Assessments English Language Arts and Mathematics Fact Sheet

### Florida Standards Assessments (FSA) English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics Overview

This fact sheet provides information regarding 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 [2017–18 FSA End-of-Course Assessments Fact Sheet](#).

### Students to Be Tested in 2017–18

- 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 also participate in ELA Writing.
  - Retained grade 10 or grades 11–12 students who have not yet passed the Grade 10 ELA assessment will participate in the ELA Retake assessment.
- Students enrolled in grades 3–8 will participate in FSA Mathematics assessments.
  - In accordance with section 1008.22(3)(b)2., Florida Statutes, middle grades students will not be tested on both FSA Mathematics and a mathematics EOC assessment. Students enrolled in Algebra 1 or Geometry must take the corresponding EOC assessment, not the grade-level FSA mathematics assessment.

### Test Administration Schedule

For a full schedule of all statewide assessments, see the [2017–18 Statewide Assessment Schedule](#).

### Test Administration Information

- In 2017–18, the following FSA assessments are delivered in a paper-based format:
  - Grade 3 ELA Reading
  - Grades 4–7 ELA Writing
- In 2017–18, the following FSA assessments are delivered in a computer-based format:
  - Grades 8–10 ELA Writing, ELA Writing Retake
  - Grades 4–10 ELA Reading, ELA Reading Retake
  - Grades 3–8 Mathematics
  - Computer-based tests (CBT) are delivered via a CBT platform called the Test Delivery System (TDS).
  - Paper-based tests (PBT), including regular print, large print, one-item-per-page and braille, of computer-based tests 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 Writing component of the ELA assessment consists of one text-based constructed-response item (students read a variety of texts and respond to a prompt).
    - Grades 4–7 students take ELA Writing on paper and have three lined pages on which to write their responses.

- Grades 8–10/Retake students take ELA Writing on computer and type their responses in a text box within the student interface (TDS).
  - 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 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.
  - More information, including the number-of-items range for each assessment, can be found in the test design summaries 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 administered in 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.
  - Students are provided CBT Work Folders for each mathematics session. A sample of the work folder is available on the [FSA Portal](#).
  - Students are provided CBT Worksheets for each reading session. A sample of the worksheet is available on the [FSA Portal](#).
  - For ELA Reading tests, students will respond to some items associated with audio passages, with the exception of Grade 3 Reading. Students must have headphones or earbuds to access the passages. For information about the types of accommodations available for ELA Reading audio passages for students with the appropriate IEP or Section 504 plan, see the Accommodations Guide on the [FSA Portal](#).
  - Scientific calculators are 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](#). In addition, reference sheets are provided for some mathematics assessments. Please see the [Calculator and Reference Sheet Policies for Florida Standards Assessments \(FSA\) Mathematics Assessments](#) for more information. Calculators are not permitted for Grades 3–6 Mathematics.

### Practice Tests

- Computer-based and paper-based **practice tests** as well as paper-based **test item practice** handouts 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 students better understand the Florida Standards to which the assessments are aligned, please visit [CPALMS](#).
- Students are required to participate in a practice test session at their school prior to testing.
- Districts may order paper-based large print or braille practice materials for students participating with these accommodations.

### 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:<br>Highly likely to need substantial support for the next grade | Below Satisfactory:<br>Likely to need substantial support for the next grade | Satisfactory:<br>May need additional support for the next grade | Proficient:<br>Likely to excel in the next grade | Mastery:<br>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 [FSA Portal](#).

Achievement level cut scores for FSA assessments were adopted in [State Board of Education Rule 6A-1.09422](#), Florida Administrative Code, in January 2016. The lowest score in Level 3 is the passing score for each grade level and subject. The table on the following page shows the score ranges for each achievement level on the FSA score scale. For grades 4–10 ELA, a combined score is reported that includes student performance on both the Writing and Reading components.

**Table 2. FSA Scale Scores for Each Achievement Level**

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

### Additional 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 in Level 1, please see the [Third Grade Guidance page](#) on the FDOE website.
- Students who entered grade 9 in 2013–14 and beyond must pass the Grade 10 FSA ELA assessment for graduation purposes. For more information, including concordant score and alternate passing score information, please see [Graduation Requirements for Statewide Assessments](#).
- Achievement level cut scores for FSA ELA and Mathematics assessments were established in January 2016 (see Table 2). For more information on these scores, please see [Understanding FSA Reports](#). 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. For more information about accommodations, see the Assessment Accommodations FAQ document on the [FSA Portal](#).

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