

FCAT 2.0 Overview

The Florida Department of Education is continuing the transition from the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test® (FCAT) to the FCAT 2.0 to align with new student academic content standards. The FCAT 2.0 measures student achievement of the *Next Generation Sunshine State Standards* (NGSSS) in reading, mathematics, and science, replacing the *Sunshine State Standards*. The transition to the FCAT 2.0 began last year with Reading and Mathematics and will continue when FCAT 2.0 Science is administered to grades 5 and 8 this school year. The transition to the FCAT 2.0 will be complete with the administration of FCAT 2.0 Writing in spring 2013.

Students to be Tested in Spring 2012

- Students enrolled in grades 3-10 will participate in FCAT 2.0 Reading
- Students enrolled in grades 3-8 will participate in FCAT 2.0 Mathematics
- Students enrolled in grades 5 and 8 will participate in FCAT 2.0 Science
- Students who need to retake and pass the Grade 10 FCAT 2.0 Reading assessment for graduation purposes will participate in the FCAT 2.0 Reading Retake

Test Administration Schedule

For a full schedule of all statewide assessments, see

<http://info.fldoe.org/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-5851/dps-2010-147a.pdf>. Spring 2012 FCAT 2.0 testing will be conducted according to the following schedule:

April 9 – April 20

- FCAT 2.0 Reading Retakes (CBT administration with paper-based accommodations)

April 16 – 27

Monday, April 16

- Grades 3-5 and 7-10* Reading (Session 1)
- Grade 6 Mathematics (Sessions 1 and 2)

Tuesday, April 17

- Grades 3-5 and 7-10* Reading (Session 2)
- Grade 6 Reading* (Session 1)

Wednesday, April 18

- Grades 3, 4, and 5 Mathematics (Session 1)
- Grades 7 and 8 Mathematics (Sessions 1 and 2)
- Grade 6 Reading* (Session 2)

Thursday, April 19

- Grades 3, 4, and 5 Mathematics (Session 2)

Tuesday, April 24

- Grade 5 Science (Session 1)

Wednesday, April 25

- Grade 5 Science (Session 2)

***On this schedule, Grades 6 and 10 FCAT 2.0 Reading are for paper-based accommodations only**

- Grades 6 and 10 FCAT 2.0 Reading are computer-based testing (CBT) administrations.
 - Districts may use the entire two-week testing window to administer these assessments. The test must be administered over two days (one session per day) as is the case for paper-based FCAT 2.0 Reading administrations at other grade levels.
 - Paper-based versions (regular print and braille) will be provided for students with disabilities who require allowable accommodations, as specified in their Individual Educational Plans (IEPs) or Section 504 plans.
 - CBT accommodated forms (large print, color contrast, zoom) are available via TestHear software for students whose IEPs indicate these accommodations.
 - The Grades 6 and 10 FCAT 2.0 Reading computer-based practice tests, called ePATs, will be available for teachers, students, and parents in January 2012. This tool is available online at www.FLAssessments.com/ePAT for both TestNav and TestHear. Instructions for downloading the installer software and ePATs are also located on this site. Students are required to participate in a practice test at their school prior to testing.
 - The ePAT for the FCAT 2.0 Reading Retake is currently available at www.FLAssessments.com/ePAT.
- Grade 8 FCAT 2.0 Science may be administered on Day 4, Day 5, Day 6, Day 7, or Day 8 of the testing window. Districts must select one day to administer the test in their district, and both sessions must be administered on the same day.
- The official 2012 Daily Session Schedule may be accessed at <http://www.fldoe.org/asp/pdf/2012Daily-RMS-Schedule.pdf>.

Test Administration Information

Information regarding the number of items and content areas of each FCAT 2.0 assessment can be found in the Test Design Summary located at <http://fcats.fldoe.org/pdf/designsummary.pdf>.

- FCAT 2.0 Reading
 - Grades 3-10 FCAT 2.0 Reading will be administered in two 70-minute sessions with a break in the middle of each session.
 - The FCAT 2.0 Reading Retake will be administered in two sessions over two days. Students have up to half of a typical school day to complete each session.
 - FCAT 2.0 Reading consists of multiple-choice items only.
- FCAT 2.0 Mathematics
 - Grades 3-8 FCAT 2.0 Mathematics will be administered in two 70-minute sessions with a break in the middle of each session.
 - FCAT 2.0 Mathematics consists of multiple-choice and gridded-response items in grades 4-8, and multiple-choice items only in grade 3.
 - Students in grades 3 and 4 will receive a ruler to use during Session 2 of FCAT 2.0 Mathematics.
 - Students in grades 7 and 8 will receive an approved hand-held four-function calculator to use during the FCAT 2.0 Mathematics sessions.
 - Students in grades 5-8 will receive a reference sheet to use during the FCAT 2.0 Mathematics sessions.
- FCAT 2.0 Science
 - Grades 5 and 8 FCAT 2.0 Science will be administered in two 80-minute sessions with a break in the middle of each session.
 - Students in grade 8 will receive a hand-held four-function calculator and a Periodic Table of the Elements to use during the FCAT 2.0 Science sessions.

Scoring and Reporting

FCAT 2.0 Reading and Mathematics will be reported using the following three measures:

- **Scale Scores**—During the fall of 2011, a vertical scaling study was conducted so that performance can be compared across all grade levels as it was for the FCAT. The new score scale, which is also referred to as a developmental score scale, ranges from 140 to 302 for FCAT 2.0 Reading and from 140 to 298 for FCAT 2.0 Mathematics.
- **Content Area Scores**—Content area scores are reported as the actual number of raw score points earned out of the number of points possible for each reporting category. Reporting categories represent groups of similar skills, or benchmarks, which are assessed within each grade and subject. The state mean for each reporting category is also provided to allow for comparisons to average performance statewide.
- **Achievement Levels**—The success a student has achieved with the NGSSS assessed by the FCAT 2.0 is described by Achievement Levels that range from 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest). Level 3 indicates satisfactory performance. Tables 1 and 2 provide the developmental scale score range for each Achievement Level.

Table 1: Achievement Levels for the FCAT 2.0 Reading Developmental Scale Scores (140 to 302)

Grade	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
3	140-181	182-197	198-209	210-226	227-260
4	154-191	192-207	208-220	221-237	238-269
5	161-199	200-215	216-229	230-245	246-277
6	167-206	207-221	222-236	237-251	252-283
7	171-212	213-227	228-242	243-257	258-289
8	175-217	218-234	235-248	249-263	264-296
9	178-221	222-239	240-252	253-267	268-302
10	188-227	228-244	245-255	256-270	271-302

Table 2: Achievement Levels for the FCAT 2.0 Mathematics Developmental Scale Scores (140 to 298)

Grade	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
3	140-182	183-197	198-213	214-228	229-260
4	155-196	197-209	210-223	224-239	240-271
5	163-204	205-219	220-233	234-246	247-279
6	170-212	213-226	227-239	240-252	253-284
7	179-219	220-233	234-247	248-260	261-292
8	187-228	229-240	241-255	256-267	268-298

FCAT 2.0 Science will be reported using the following three measures:

- **FCAT Equivalent Scores**—Student results for the Spring 2012 FCAT 2.0 Science will be reported as FCAT Equivalent Scores. The scores are being reported in this way to maintain consistent student expectations during the transition year. These scores will be used in the same way FCAT scores have been used in prior years, using the existing FCAT Achievement Level scoring table. The FCAT equivalent scale ranges from 100 to 500 for Grades 5 and 8 FCAT 2.0 Science. Scores on the new FCAT 2.0 Science scale will be available beginning in 2013.
- **Content Area Scores**—Content area scores are reported as the actual number of raw score points earned out of the number of points possible for each reporting category. Reporting categories represent groups of similar student skills, or benchmarks, which are assessed within each grade

and subject. The state mean for each reporting category also is provided to allow for comparisons to average performance statewide.

- **Achievement Levels**—The success a student has achieved with the NGSSS assessed on the FCAT 2.0 is described by Achievement Levels that range from 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest). Level 3 indicates satisfactory performance. Table 3 provides the FCAT equivalent scale score range for each Achievement Level.

Table 3: Achievement Levels for the FCAT Science Equivalent Scores (100 to 500)					
Grade	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
5	100-272	273-322	323-376	377-416	417-500
8	100-269	270-324	325-386	387-431	432-500

2012 Passing Score Requirements for FCAT 2.0

- Students in grade 3 must achieve an FCAT 2.0 scale score in Achievement Level 2 or higher in Reading, or show good cause, to be eligible for promotion.
- Students who entered grade 9 in the 2009-10 school year must earn a 241, or higher, on the Grade 10 FCAT 2.0 Reading for graduation purposes (this score is equivalent to an FCAT Equivalent Developmental Scale Score of 1926). Students who entered grade 9 in the 2010-11 school year and beyond must score in Achievement Level 3 or above on the Grade 10 FCAT 2.0 Reading for graduation purposes.

New FCAT 2.0 Science Scale—2013

During the fall of 2012, Florida educators will recommend new achievement-level cut scores for FCAT 2.0 Science. These new cut scores will then be reviewed by a reactor panel and the public as they were for FCAT 2.0 Reading and Mathematics. The State Board of Education will establish the final FCAT 2.0 Science Achievement Levels in January 2013 based on these recommendations.