

2014–15 Florida Standards Assessments English Language Arts (Grades 3–10) and Mathematics (Grades 3–8) Fact Sheet

English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics Overview

This fact sheet provides information on grades 3–10 ELA and grades 3–8 mathematics assessments that measure student achievement of the Florida Standards. (The grade 11 FSA ELA will not be administered due to an [executive order](#) from Governor Rick Scott.) For information on FSA End-of-Course (EOC) assessments, see the 2014–15 FSA EOC Fact Sheet.

Students to be Tested in 2014–15

- Students enrolled in grades 3–10 will participate in FSA ELA assessments.
 - Students enrolled in grades 4–10 will participate in the FSA ELA Text-based Writing Component.
 - Selected schools will participate in a Writing Component Field Test in December 2014/January 2015.
- Students enrolled in grades 3–8 will participate in FSA Mathematics assessments.
 - Middle grades students will not be tested on both the FSA mathematics and a mathematics EOC assessment. In accordance with Section 1008.22(3)(b)1., Florida Statutes, “Middle grades students enrolled in Algebra I, Geometry, or Biology I must take the statewide, standardized EOC assessment for those courses and shall not take the corresponding subject and grade-level statewide, standardized assessment.”

Test Administration Schedule

For a full schedule of all statewide assessments, see the [2014–15 Statewide Assessment Schedule](#). In the information below, an asterisk (*) indicates that it is a paper-based test. All other assessments are computer-based tests (CBTs) only, with paper-based accommodations available for eligible students with individual educational plans (IEPs) or Section 504 plans.

December 1, 2014–February 13, 2015

- FSA English Language Arts Text-based Writing Component Field Test (selected schools only, Grades 4–7*, 8–11)
 - December 1–19, 2014 and January 5–February 13, 2015: Grades 8–11 Computer-Based Writing Component Field Test
 - February 2–13, 2015: Grades 4–7 Paper-Based Writing Component Field Test

March 2–13, 2015

- FSA English Language Arts Text-based Writing Component (Grades 4–7*, 8–10)

March 23–April 10, 2015

- FSA ELA*/Mathematics*(Grades 3–4)

April 13–May 8, 2015 (Accommodated paper-based tests completed by April 24)

- FSA ELA (Grades 5–10) and FSA Mathematics (Grades 5–8)

Test Administration Information

- In 2014-15, all FSA tests are computer-based, with the exception of Grades 3–4 FSA ELA and Mathematics and the Grades 4–7 FSA ELA Text-Based Writing Component.

- Paper-based versions (regular print, large print, one-item-per-page, and braille) of CBTs are provided for students with disabilities who cannot access assessments on the computer, as specified in their IEPs or Section 504 plans.
- CBT accommodations (e.g., text-to-speech) are available for students whose IEPs indicate these accommodations.
- The [transition chart](#) for moving assessments from paper-based delivery to online delivery is available on the [FSA portal](#).
- The following table describes some of the tools and materials available for students on the computer-based assessments.

Table 1: Computer-Based Assessments: Reference Materials Available for Each Assessment

Material/Tool	ELA Reading Grades 5–10	ELA Writing Component Grades 8–10	Mathematics Grades 5–6	Mathematics Grades 7–8
Calculator	No	No	No	YES* (specified sessions only)
Reference sheet	No	No	YES*	YES*
Four-page Work Folders	No	No	YES	YES
One-page CBT Worksheet	YES	No	No	No
One-page Planning Sheet	No	YES	No	No

*Calculators and reference sheets/conversions are available to students in the computer-based platform. The department provides printed reference sheets to students taking the paper-based accommodated versions of the computer-based assessments. Districts/schools may choose to provide hand-held calculators and printed copies of the official reference sheets posted to the [FSA Portal](#).

Information regarding the number of items and content areas of each FSA ELA and Mathematics assessment can be found in the Test Design Summary located at <http://www.fsassessments.org/resources/>.

- **FSA ELA and Mathematics Sessions**
The tables below provide the testing times and sessions for the ELA and Mathematics assessments.

Table 2: ELA Text-Based Writing Component (March 2–13, 2015)

Grade Level	Number of Days of Testing	Total Number of Sessions	Minutes per Session*
4	1	1	90
5	1	1	90
6	1	1	90
7	1	1	90
8	1	1	90
9	1	1	90
10	1	1	90

*Students may be allowed to continue working an additional 30 minutes, if needed.

Table 3: ELA Reading and Listening Assessment (March 23–May 8, 2015)

Grade Level	Number of Days of Testing	Total Number of Sessions	Minutes per Session
3	2	2	80
4	2	2	80
5	2	2	80
6	2	2	85
7	2	2	85
8	2	2	85
9	2	2	90
10	2	2	90

Table 4: Mathematics Session and Timing Information (March 23–May 8, 2015)

Grade Level	Number of Days of Testing	Total Number of Sessions	Minutes per Session
3	2	2	80
4	2	2	80
5	2	2	80
6	2	3*	60
7	2	3*	60
8	2	3*	60

*It is recommended that schools administer Session 1 (no calculator) on day one and Sessions 2 and 3 (calculators) on day two; however, if desired, schools may administer Sessions 1 and 2 on day one and Session 3 on day two.

• **ELA and Mathematics Approximate Number of Items**

There are multiple forms of each assessment. The number of items is listed below:

- For ELA grades 3–5, there are 56–60 items.
- For ELA grades 6–8, there are 58–62 items.
- For ELA grades 9–10, there are 60–64 items.
- For Mathematics grades 3–5, there are 60–64 items.
- For Mathematics grades 6–8, there are 62–66 items.

Six to 10 of the items on each assessment are field test items and are NOT used to calculate student scores.

Training Test

- Computer-based training tests for each assessment are available for teachers, students and parents/guardians. Training tests allow students to become familiar with the system, functionality, and item types that will be encountered on the FSA.
- Students are required to participate in a training test session at their school prior to testing.
- Teachers, parents/guardians, and students can review the FSA computer-based training tests online at <http://www.fsassessments.org/training-tests>. While these training tests contain questions for multiple grade levels, the answer keys indicate the precise grade level for each question.

Scoring and Reporting

FSA ELA and Mathematics results will be reported using the following three measures:

- **Scores**—For the first administration, students will receive two performance indicators: a T score and a percentile rank. The T score is a score on a scale of 20-80 with approximately 50 as the statewide average. Students will also receive a percentile rank, which will show how they performed on each grade level/subject area test compared to all other students in Florida who took the same test. After achievement-level cut scores are established, districts will receive 2014-2015 FSA retrofitted test results to reflect student performance on the new score scale. For grade 3 and grade 10 ELA, a score linked to the FCAT 2.0 grade 3 and grade 10 assessments will be provided.
- **Content Area Scores**—Content area scores are reported as the actual number of 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 level and subject area.
- **Achievement Levels**—The success a student has achieved with the Florida Standards will be assessed by FSA ELA and mathematics assessments and is described by Achievement Levels that range from 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest). Level 3 indicates satisfactory performance. The level of performance required to score in each Achievement Level will be established prior to the spring 2016 administration.