

### I. Purpose of the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards (NGSSS) Assessments

The Statewide Science Assessment, NGSSS End-of-Course (EOC) assessments, and the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test<sup>®</sup> 2.0 (FCAT 2.0) Reading Retake are part of Florida’s Next Generation Strategic Plan for the purpose of increasing student achievement and improving college and career readiness. The statewide assessment program assesses student achievement of the NGSSS through the implementation of the Statewide Science Assessment; NGSSS Biology 1, U.S. History, and Civics EOC assessments; NGSSS Algebra 1 Retake EOC Assessment; and the FCAT 2.0 Reading Retake assessment.

### II. Test Design Information for the Statewide Science Assessment and NGSSS EOC Assessments

#### A. Students to Be Tested

**Statewide Science Assessment**—In general, all Florida public school students enrolled in grades 5 and 8 participate in the Statewide Science Assessment.

**NGSSS EOC Assessments**—Table 1 provides an overview of the subjects assessed by the NGSSS EOC assessments. NGSSS EOC assessments are not grade-level specific; rather, they are designed to measure student achievement of the NGSSS for specific courses and their equivalents, as outlined in the course descriptions.

**Table 1: NGSSS EOC Assessments by Course\***

Course—Course Number	NGSSS Assessment
Biology 1—2000310	Biology 1 EOC Assessment
U.S. History—2100310	U.S. History EOC Assessment
Civics—2106010	Civics EOC Assessment

\*For a complete list of courses for which students are required to or are eligible to take the NGSSS EOC assessments, see the most recent test administration manual available at the following website: <http://avocet.pearson.com/FL/Home>.

#### B. Content Categories

Tables 2–3 on the following page present the content categories and the percentage of raw-score points that will be derived from each content category for the Statewide Science Assessment and NGSSS EOC assessments.

**Table 2: Statewide Science Assessment Content Categories**

Grade	Nature of Science	Earth and Space Science	Physical Science	Life Science
5	17%	29%	29%	25%
8	19%	27%	27%	27%

**Table 3: NGSSS EOC Assessments Content Categories**

Test	Category	Percentage
<b>Biology 1</b>	Molecular and Cellular Biology	35%
	Classification, Heredity, and Evolution	25%
	Organisms, Populations, and Ecosystems	40%
<b>U.S. History</b>	Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Century, 1860–1910	33%
	Global Military, Political, and Economic Challenges, 1890–1940	34%
	The United States and the Defense of the International Peace, 1940–Present	33%
<b>Civics</b>	Origins and Purposes of Law and Government	25%
	Roles, Rights, and Responsibilities of Citizens	25%
	Government Policies and Political Processes	25%
	Organization and Function of Government	25%

**C. Test Length and Item Types**

**Table 4: Duration of Test**

*Table 4 displays the total number of minutes allowed for the 2016–17 regular test takers. The Statewide Science Assessment is administered in two sessions. NGSSS EOC assessments are administered in one session.*

Grade/Course	Science	Social Studies
5	160	
8	160	
<b>Biology 1</b>	160*	
<b>U.S. History</b>		160*
<b>Civics</b>		160*

\*For NGSSS EOC assessments, any student not finished by the end of the 160-minute test session may continue working; however, testing must be completed within the same school day.

**Table 5: Number of Items**

*Table 5 provides an approximate range for the number of items on each test. All items on the Statewide Science Assessment and NGSSS EOC assessments are multiple-choice items.*

Grade/Course	Science	Social Studies
5	60–66	
8	60–66	
Biology 1	60–66	
U.S. History		50–60
Civics		52–56

Note: Approximately 6–10 items on each of the tests listed above are field test items and are included in the ranges above but are **not** used to calculate student scores.

**III. Test Design Information for NGSSS Retake Assessments**

The NGSSS Retake assessments, including the NGSSS Algebra 1 Retake EOC Assessment and the FCAT 2.0 Reading Retake, are administered to students and adults who have not yet passed the assessment(s) required for graduation. Tables 6–11 provide test design information for the NGSSS Retake assessments.

**A. Students to Be Tested**

**NGSSS Algebra 1 Retake EOC Assessment**—Students who participated in an Algebra 1 course (e.g., course number 1200310) prior to Fall 2014 and are pursuing a standard Florida high school diploma must pass the NGSSS Algebra 1 EOC Assessment or obtain a concordant score on the Postsecondary Education Readiness Test (PERT) as one of the requirements for graduation.

**FCAT 2.0 Reading Retake**—Students who entered Grade 9 in the 2009–2010 school year through the 2012–2013 school year and are pursuing a standard Florida high school diploma must pass the Grade 10 FCAT 2.0 Reading test, which is based on the 2007 NGSSS, or obtain a concordant score on the ACT or SAT as one of the requirements for graduation. Additionally, students who enrolled in Grade 9 prior to the 2009–2010 school year but have not yet passed the Grade 10 FCAT Reading test will take the FCAT 2.0 Reading Retake because the FCAT Reading Retake is no longer offered.

For information on graduation requirements, including concordant scores, see the [Graduation Requirements for Florida’s Statewide Assessments](#) document.

**B. Content Categories**

**Table 6: NGSSS Retake Assessments Content Categories**

*Table 6 presents the content categories and the percentage of raw-score points that will be derived from each content category for the NGSSS Retake assessments.*

Test	Category	Percentage
NGSSS Algebra 1 Retake EOC	Functions, Linear Equations, and Inequalities	55%
	Polynomials	20%
	Rationals, Radicals, Quadratics, and Discrete Mathematics	25%
FCAT 2.0 Reading Retake	Vocabulary	15%–25%
	Reading Application	20%–30%
	Literary Analysis: Fiction and Nonfiction	20%–30%
	Informational Text and Research Process	25%–35%

### C. Test Length and Item Types

**Table 7: Duration of Test**

Table 7 displays the number of minutes allowed for the 2016–17 regular test takers.

Test	Duration
NGSSS Algebra 1 Retake EOC	160 minutes*
FCAT 2.0 Reading Retake	2 sessions, each up to half the length of a typical school day

\*For NGSSS EOC assessments, any student not finished by the end of the 160-minute test session may continue working; however, testing must be completed within the same school day.

**Table 8: Number of Items**

Table 8 provides an approximate range for the number of items on each test.

Test	Item Range
NGSSS Algebra 1 Retake EOC	60–65
FCAT 2.0 Reading Retake	50–55

**Table 9: Item Types and Numbers**

Table 9 gives ranges for the approximate number of items by item type. Item types are noted as “MC” for multiple-choice and “FR” for fill-in response.

Test	Item Types and Numbers
NGSSS Algebra 1 Retake EOC	35–40 MC
	20–25 FR
FCAT 2.0 Reading Retake	50–55 MC

**Table 10: Length of FCAT 2.0 Reading Retake Passages**

Number of Words per Passage		
Test	Range	Average
FCAT 2.0 Reading Retake	300–1500	1000

**Table 11: Reading Passage Types and Percentages for the FCAT 2.0 Reading Retake**

*Literary passages provide entertainment or inspiration and include fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and drama. Informational passages are subject-matter based and the language may be used to solve problems, raise questions, provide information, or present new ideas. The context of these passages includes everyday life outside of the classroom.*

Test	Literary Text	Informational Text
FCAT 2.0 Reading Retake	30%	70%

#### IV. Cognitive Complexity

The Statewide Science Assessment, NGSSS EOC assessments, NGSSS Algebra 1 Retake EOC Assessment, and FCAT 2.0 Reading Retake items are classified using a model with origins in the works of Dr. Norman Webb<sup>1</sup> on depth of knowledge. With this system, items are classified on the cognitive demand inherent in the test item, not on assumptions about the student’s approach to the item.

Low-complexity items rely heavily on recall and recognition. Moderate-complexity items require more flexible thinking and may require informal reasoning or problem solving. High-complexity items are written to elicit analysis and abstract reasoning. Table 12 presents the range for the percentage of raw-score points by cognitive complexity level on each NGSSS assessment.

**Table 12: Percentage of Points by Cognitive Complexity Level for NGSSS Assessments**

Grade/Course	Low	Moderate	High
5	10%–20%	60%–80%	10%–20%
8	10%–20%	60%–80%	10%–20%
Biology 1	10%–20%	60%–80%	10%–20%
U.S. History	20%–30%	45%–65%	15%–25%
Civics	15%–25%	45%–65%	15%–25%
NGSSS Algebra 1 Retake EOC	10%–20%	60%–80%	10%–20%

<sup>1</sup> Webb, Norman L. and others. “Web Alignment Tool” 24 July 2005. Wisconsin Center for Education Research. University of Wisconsin-Madison. 2 Feb 2006. <http://wat.wceruw.org/index.aspx>