

9.0 GUIDE TO RELATED RESOURCES

The following is a list of major topics related to the FCAT. A detailed description of each reference is provided in the first instance it is mentioned and thereafter only the title is listed. Other important information related to education in Florida can be found at the DOE web site at: www.fldoe.org.

Topic

Accommodations

FCAT Test Administration Manual—Describes procedures for FCAT administration, including roles and responsibilities of District Coordinators of Assessment, School Coordinators of Assessment, and Test Administrators; scripts for test administration; accommodations; and security measures. Three manuals are published and distributed each year: one for FCAT Writing+, one for FCAT Reading, Mathematics, and Science combined, and a third for FCAT Reading and Mathematics retakes.

For further information about accommodations, refer to the following technical assistance documents: “Planning FCAT Accommodations for Students with Disabilities” (product # 309603) and “Descriptions of FCAT Accommodations” (product #311930). These documents are available in print from the Bureau of Instructional Support and Student Services Clearinghouse/Information Center at (850) 245-0477. These and many other documents may be downloaded from the following web site: <http://www.firn.edu/doe/commhome/fcatasd.htm>

Accountability for Schools

Assessment & Accountability Briefing Book—Provides a summary of the FCAT program, including frequently asked questions, content assessed by FCAT, school accountability, FCAT results, and the history of the program. <http://www.firn.edu/doe/sas/fcat/fcatpub1.htm>

DOE Office of Evaluation and Reporting web site—Includes information on school grades and school accountability: <http://www.firn.edu/doe/evaluation/home0018.htm>

Content

FCAT Test Item Specifications—Guidelines for item writers and reviewers, including the *Sunshine State Standards* benchmarks to be tested, response formats for items associated with each benchmark, and other considerations for developing quality items. Separate documents for the individual grades or grade blocks in reading, mathematics, and science. *Item Specifications* for FCAT Writing+ are currently under development. <http://www.firn.edu/doe/sas/fcat/fcatis01.htm>

Keys to FCAT—Contains information for parents and students preparing for FCAT Reading, Writing+, Mathematics, and Science. Distributed each January to district offices and available in English, Spanish, and Haitian Creole. Separate publications for Grades 3–5, 6–8, and 9–11. <http://www.firn.edu/doe/sas/fcat/fcatkeys.htm>



General Information

About the FCAT (online brochure)—Provides a summary for all FCAT subjects and grades. Available in English, Spanish, and Haitian Creole.

<http://www.firn.edu/doe/sas/fcat/fcatpub3.htm>

FCAT Myths vs. Facts (brochure)—Addresses common concerns about FCAT with relevant facts. Available in English and Spanish.

<http://www.firn.edu/doe/sas/fcat/fcatpub1.htm>

FCAT Posters (elementary, middle, and high school)—Focus on test-taking strategies and are available at district assessment offices. A poster for high school students identifies the scores necessary for passing the Grade 10 FCAT Reading and Grade 10 FCAT Mathematics and reminds students that they have multiple opportunities to retake the test.

Frequently Asked Questions About the FCAT (brochure)—Provides answers to frequently asked questions about the FCAT program.

<http://www.firn.edu/doe/sas/fcat/fcatpub1.htm>

History	<p><i>Assessment & Accountability Briefing Book</i></p> <p>FDOE History of Statewide Assessment Program (HSAP) web site: www.firn.edu/doe/sas/hsaphome.htm</p>
Item Development	<p><i>FCAT Test Item Specifications</i></p>
Item Response Theory (IRT)	<p><i>FCAT Technical Report</i>—Provides detailed information on item and test scoring and the statistical methods used to verify the quality of the items and test. The <i>2000</i> and <i>2002 Technical Reports</i> are available on the FCAT web site at http://www.firn.edu/doe/sas/fcat/fcatpub2.htm. For other years, portions not dealing with specific test items are available upon request from the DOE.</p>
No Child Left Behind	<p>The Florida Department of Education’s No Child Left Behind web site: www.fldoe.org/NCLB</p> <p>U.S. Department of Education’s No Child Left Behind web site: www.ed.gov/nclb</p>
Norm-Referenced Tests	<p>DOE norm-referenced tests web site: www.firn.edu/doe/sas/nrthome.htm</p> <p>FCAT NRT scores web site, including historic information for <i>Stanford 9 Reading Comprehension and Mathematics Problem Solving</i> tests from 2000–2004 administrations: http://www.firn.edu/doe/sas/fcat/nrinfopg.htm</p>
NRT SAT 10	<p>Information about the FCAT NRT (<i>SAT 10</i>): http://www.firn.edu/doe/sas/fcat/fcatpub2.htm</p>
Preparing Students for the FCAT	<p>The <i>FCAT Explorer</i> interactive web site is designed to help children strengthen the critical skills that are outlined in the <i>Sunshine State Standards</i> and tested on the FCAT. The <i>FCAT Explorer</i> features skills practice for both reading and math and includes passage and question topics from several areas of the <i>Sunshine State Standards</i>, such as social studies, science, and the arts. The <i>FCAT Explorer</i> web site: http://www.fcatexplorer.org/</p> <p><i>Keys to FCAT</i></p>

Sample Test Materials—Produced and distributed each fall for teachers to use with students. The student booklet contains different kinds of FCAT questions and hints for answering them. The teacher’s answer key provides the correct answer and an explanation for the correct answer and also indicates which *Sunshine State Standards* benchmark is being assessed by each question. Available for FCAT Reading, Mathematics, Science, and Writing+.

<http://www.firn.edu/doe/sas/fcat/fcatsmpl.htm>

What every teacher should know about FCAT—Provides suggestions for all subject-area teachers to use in helping their students be successful on the FCAT.

<http://www.firn.edu/doe/sas/fcat/fcatpub2.htm>

Reporting and Results

FCAT Developmental Scores web site:

http://www.firn.edu/doe/sas/fcat/fcat_score/index.htm

FCAT Results web site:

<http://fcat.fldoe.org/>

FCAT Scores and Reports web site:

<http://www.firn.edu/doe/sas/fcat/fcatscor.htm>

Florida Inquires! Report on the [test administration year] FCAT Science Released Items—Guide to the scoring of the FCAT Science performance tasks displayed on the Grades 5, 8, and 11 student reports. Distributed to districts each May.

Florida Reads! Report on the [test administration year] FCAT Reading Released Items—Guide to the scoring of the FCAT Reading performance tasks displayed on the Grades 4, 8, and 10 student reports. Distributed to districts each May.

Florida Solves! Report on the [test administration year] FCAT Mathematics Released Items—Guide to the scoring of the FCAT Mathematics performance tasks displayed on the Grades 5, 8, and 10 student reports. Distributed to districts each May.

Florida Writes! Reports on the [test administration year] FCAT Writing Assessment—For educators involved in teaching, planning, and evaluating curriculum in the Florida public schools. Separate publications for Grades 4, 8, and 10 describe the content and application of FCAT Writing+ prompted essay and offer suggestions for activities that may be helpful in preparing students for the assessment. Distributed to districts each May.

Lessons Learned—FCAT, *Sunshine State Standards and Instructional Implications*—Provides an analysis of previous years' FCAT results and contains analyses of state FCAT Reading, Writing, and Mathematics data through 2000. Intended to assist educators in interpreting and understanding their local FCAT scores in order to help improve classroom instruction.

<http://www.firm.edu/doe/sas/fcat/fclesn02.htm>

Results spreadsheets are archived at the web site below, providing school, district, and state means for each grade tested by year.

<http://www.firm.edu/doe/sas/fcat/fclesn02.htm>

Understanding FCAT Reports—Provides information about the FCAT student, district, and school reports for the most recent test administration. Samples of reports, explanations about the reports, and a glossary of technical terms are included. Distribution to districts is scheduled to coincide with the delivery of student reports each May.

<http://fcat.fldoe.org/>



Sample Items

FCAT Explorer interactive web site:

<http://www.fcatexplorer.org/>

FCAT Test Item Specifications

Keys to FCAT

Sample Test Materials

Scoring Procedures and Methodology

FCAT Performance Task Scoring—Practice for Educators (publications and software)—Designed to help teachers learn to score FCAT Reading, Writing, and Mathematics performance tasks at Grades 4, 5, 8, and 10. A *Trainer’s Guide* includes instructions for using the scoring publications and software in teacher education seminars and workshops. The publications mirror the scorer training experiences by presenting samples of student work for teachers to score.

FCAT Scoring Rubrics

<http://www.firn.edu/doe/sas/fcat/rubrcpag.htm>

Florida Inquires! Report on the [test administration year] FCAT Science Released Items

Florida Reads! Report on the [test administration year] FCAT Reading Released Items

Florida Solves! Report on the [test administration year] FCAT Mathematics Released Items

Florida Writes! Reports on the [test administration year] FCAT Writing+ Assessment

Security Measures

FCAT Test Administration Manual

Sunshine State Standards

DOE *Sunshine State Standards* web site:

<http://www.firn.edu/doe/menu/sss.htm>

FCAT Test Item Specifications

Test Administration Procedures

FCAT Test Administration Manual