

Understanding Your Child’s 2014-15 Florida Standards Assessment (FSA) Score

1. What are the Florida Standards and the Florida Standards Assessment (FSA)?

The Florida Standards were adopted by the State Board of Education in February 2014, after a process of public input and review, emphasizing preparation for college and career success. With new, more rigorous Florida Standards in place, the FCAT 2.0 no longer serves the purpose of measuring student progress and achievement. The Florida Standards Assessment, called the FSA, measures the new Florida Standards.

2. What subjects/grade levels take the FSA?

The following subjects/grade levels take the FSA:

- FSA English Language Arts (ELA): Grades 3-10
- FSA Mathematics: Grades 3-8
- FSA Algebra 1 End of Course exam (EOC): Students enrolled in Algebra 1 course
- FSA Algebra 2 EOC: Students enrolled in Algebra 2 course
- FSA Geometry EOC: Students enrolled in Geometry course

3. What is the amount of time spent on each FSA?

Grade/Subject Assessment	Session Length	Number of Sessions
Grades 4-10 ELA Writing	120 minutes	1
Grades 3-5 ELA Reading	80 minutes	2
Grades 6-8 ELA Reading	85 minutes	2
Grades 9-10 ELA Reading	90 minutes	2
Grades 3-5 Mathematics	80 minutes	2
Grades 6-8 Mathematics	60 minutes	3
Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2 EOCs	90 minutes	2

4. What subjects/grade levels take the FCAT 2.0 still, or the non-FSA End of Course exams?

Grades 5 & 8: FCAT 2.0 Science

Students enrolled in Biology: Biology EOC

Students enrolled in US History: US History EOC (optional administration for students enrolled in AP US History who would like the Scholar’s Designation on their diplomas)

Students enrolled in Civics: Civics EOC

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5. Are learning gains being measured in 2014-15?

Because 2014-15 is the first year of FSA administration, learning gains are **NOT** being measured for this year.

In prior years, learning gains allowed school districts to show progress being made by students, even if the student did not achieve an on-grade-level/proficient score (achievement level 3).

Example: Remy scores an achievement level 1 on the grade 4 assessment. The following year, he scores an achievement level 2 on the grade 5 assessment. Learning gains give credit to the school for improving this student's score, but the proficiency-only model being used in 2014-15 only looks at the fact that Remy failed to earn a proficient score of achievement level 3.

6. Will my child receive an achievement level (1-5) score for the 2014-15 FSA?

Achievement levels describe the success that a student has achieved on the state assessment.

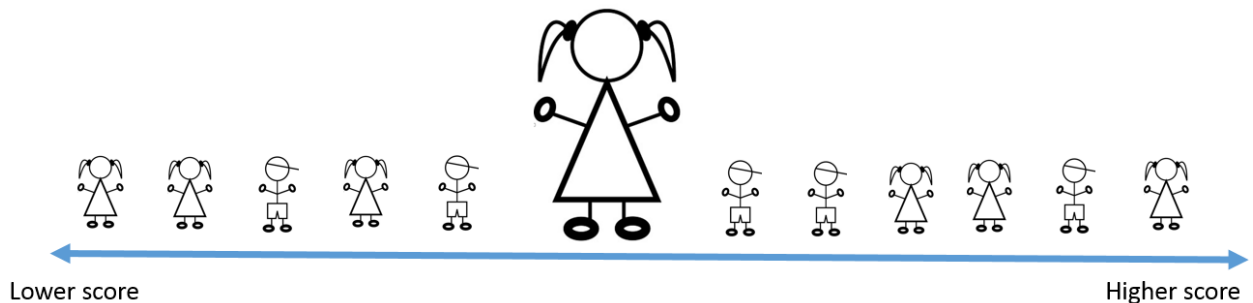
These levels are only determined after a test has gone through the standard setting process.

Because the standard setting process is still underway by the Florida Department of Education, student scores reported in September will be t-scores and percentile ranks.

Achievement level scores like the ones we have seen in years past for the FCAT will be available in January 2016, after the standards have gone through a public review and input process.

7. What is a percentile rank?

A percentile rank tells you what percent of other students in the state of Florida earned the same or lower score on the test.



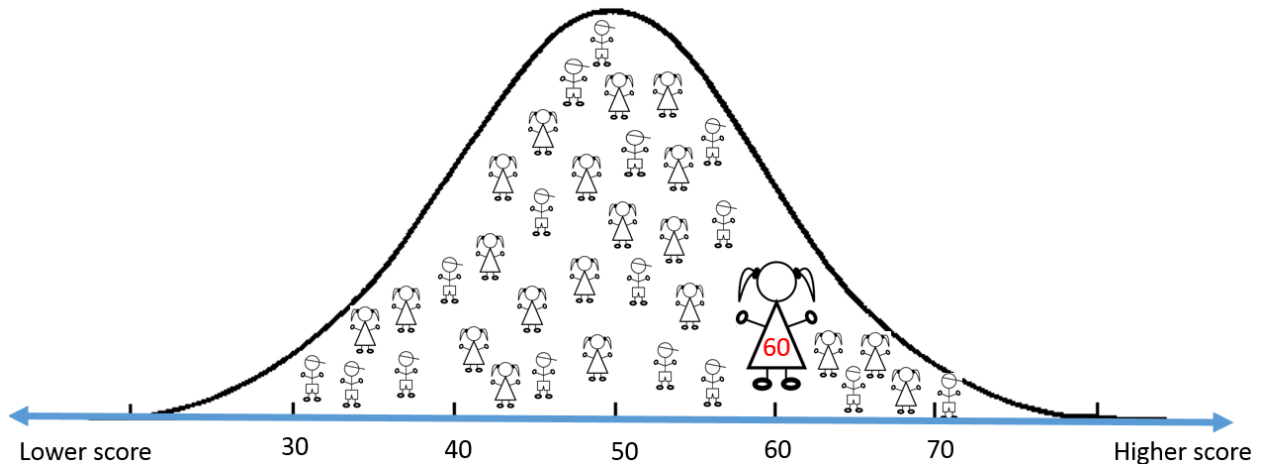
8. What is a t-score?

A t-score is another way of reporting percentile rank. T scores range from 20 (lowest possible score) to 80 (highest possible score). The mean t-score, or midpoint t-score, is 50. This means that a student who earns a t-score of 50 scored better than half of the students in the state who took the test and scored lower than half of the students in the state who took the test.

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9. What is an example of a t-score and what does it mean?

Emma received a t-score of 60, which is equal to a score of the 84th percentile. This means that 84 percent of students scored lower than Emma on the test, and 16 percent of students scored higher than Emma on the test.



10. When will my child receive an achievement level (1-5) score for the FSA?

Beginning in 2015-16, students who take the FSA in the spring administration will receive an achievement level score ranging from 1-5.

Just like with the FCAT 2.0, a score of achievement level 3 is an on-grade-level, proficient score.

11. My child took the Grade 10 English Language Arts FSA or the Algebra 1 EOC, both of which are graduation requirements. How will I know if my child met the graduation requirement?

In addition to the percentile rank, your child's report will have a statement about whether he or she met the graduation requirement. Students who do not meet the graduation requirements will need to participate in retake testing.

