



## **Statewide Assessment Information**

**February 26, 2018**

Thank you for your support of Lake County Schools and the success of each of our students. Your partnership in “providing every student with individual opportunities to excel” is very much appreciated.

The Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ’s) below address statewide assessments that impact Lake County School students:

### **How can students and parents prepare for the Florida Standards Assessment (FSA) and End-of-course (EOC) exams?**

The [FSA Portal](#) provides resources for students, parents, educators, test administrators, school assessment coordinators, district assessment coordinators, and technology coordinators. Some of the resources available include:

- The [2017-2018 FSA ELA and Math Fact Sheet](#) and [Alg I and Geometry EOC Fact Sheet](#) provide an overview of the FSA assessments.
- Training tests are provided for users to become familiar with the computer-based system, functionality, and item types; the tests are not intended to guide classroom instruction. Practice test guides, answer keys and practice test materials are provided on the site.
- Writing scoring samplers are available to define how points will be given within each domain.
- Test item specifications define the content and format of the assessment and test items for each grade level and subject.
- The test design summaries and blueprints for ELA and for mathematics provide more detailed information about the assessments, including the percentage of items in each content category, cognitive complexity, and approximate number of test items.
- The mathematics and materials document describes policies and materials specific to the mathematics assessments, such as calculators and reference sheets. In addition, the scientific calculator is provided for student practice.

Information on other state EOC’s can be found on the Florida Department of Education Website: <http://fldoe.org/accountability/assessments/k-12-student-assessment/end-of-course-eoc-assessments>.

### **What are the administration dates for the state and district assessments?**

Dates for the state and district assessments can be found on the [Lake County Assessment Calendar](#).

### **How do schools use assessment performance data to schedule students into courses?**

Assessment performance data is analyzed to place students in the appropriate courses to meet student needs including courses for additional support and enrichment. Assessment performance results inform the quality and integrity of teaching and learning for students as they progress through their academic career.

### **Does a student have to take the Florida Standards Assessment?**

Recently, questions and conversations have arisen regarding the requirements for participating in state assessments and the impact to students and schools. Florida Statutes Section 1008.22(3), states in pertinent part “Participation in the assessment program is mandatory for all school districts and all students attending public schools....” Furthermore, Florida Statutes Section 1008.25(4) further states in pertinent part “Each student must participate in the statewide, standardized assessment program required by s.1008.22....” Statewide assessment testing is customarily accomplished through the FSA, FSAA or end of course exams (collectively “Assessment Testing”).

Florida law does not contain any provisions that would permit parents or students to refuse participating in statewide assessments or opting out. Failure to participate in Assessment Testing may have multiple adverse results for a student in regards to placement in appropriate courses and grade levels. In addition, Florida law requires that students taking Algebra 1, Geometry, Biology 1, U.S. History and Civics participate in the corresponding state end of course exam and have the exam constitute 30% of the final course grade. Students who do not participate in a state end of course exam will receive an incomplete in the course until the state end of course exam is taken.

Florida law also stipulates that if a threshold percentage of students are not administered the required assessment, the individual schools may receive an “Incomplete” school grade, thereby having a potentially negative impact on the school and surrounding community. In addition, by not having accurate performance data for all students, a true reflection of the school’s performance cannot be determined.

### **If a grade 3 student does not take the Florida Standards Assessment – English/Language Arts (FSA – ELA), can the student be promoted to fourth grade without that score?**

Third grade students must participate in the statewide standardized assessment program required by section 1008.22, F.S. and demonstrate proficiency in reading in order to be promoted to fourth grade. Students not achieving a Level 2 or higher on the statewide assessment may qualify for one of six good cause promotion categories.

### **What alternative assessment(s) may be administered to a third grade child who has scored Level 1 on the FSA to determine if he/she qualifies for good cause exemption and promotion to fourth grade?**

Students not achieving a Level 2 or higher on the statewide assessment may qualify for a good cause exemption. The Lake County School District uses the iReady Reading and STAR tests as the alternate norm-referenced assessment for good cause promotion as authorized in Rule 6A-1.094221(1)(A), F.A.C.

### **Is a portfolio option available for good cause promotion for third grade students?**

Section 1008.25(6)(b)4 F.S. provides that a student who demonstrates, through a student portfolio, that the student is performing at least at Level 2 on the statewide standardized assessment is eligible for a good cause exemption.

**What are the consequences for a Grade 10 student who does not take the FSA-ELA test or the Algebra I EOC exam? If my student does not take the FSA-ELA test or Algebra I EOC exam and passes the SAT, ACT or PERT, do they still receive their diploma or will my student receive a certificate of completion?**

To meet graduation requirements for a standard diploma, students must earn a passing score on the grade 10 FSA-ELA and Algebra I EOC exams. Students who do not have a passing score on the grade 10 FSA-ELA test or the Algebra I EOC may earn a state determined concordant score as follows:

- SAT or ACT to meet the grade 10 FSA-ELA requirement
- PERT to meet the Algebra I requirement

Further, students who take Algebra 1 or its equivalent will not receive credit for the course until the state EOC has been taken as it is required to constitute 30% of the students' final course grade.

**How will students be treated if they refuse to take the test?**

Lake County Schools treats students, staff and families with the utmost respect and courtesy. Students will be administered state assessments as required by statute. It is the expectation that students will follow the rules of conduct established for the testing environment and will not be disciplined for refusing to take the test. If there is any disruption that compromises the testing environment, normal test administration procedures will be followed and the student will be removed from the classroom.

**Who should I contact if I have additional questions related to the FSA?**

The first point of contact is the school principal. If the principal is unable to answer additional questions, he or she will contact the district staff for assistance.

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