



Graduation Requirements for Florida's Statewide Assessments

Overview

According to Florida law, students must meet all academic requirements in order to earn a standard high school diploma from a public school. This means that students must pass required courses, earn a minimum number of credits, earn a minimum grade point average and pass the required statewide assessments. Students who meet these requirements but do not pass the required assessments will receive a Certificate of Completion, which is not equivalent to a standard high school diploma. Passing scores for the statewide assessments are determined by the State Board of Education.

Graduation Requirements

The assessments students must pass in order to graduate with a standard high school diploma are determined by their year of enrollment in grade 9. Table 1 lists the required assessments for each grade 9 cohort for FCAT 2.0 Reading and the Algebra 1 End-of-Course (EOC) Assessment. Table 4 lists the requirements for grade 9 cohorts required to pass the FCAT.

Table 1: Assessment Requirement by School Year

School Year When Assessment Requirements Began for Students Entering Grade 9	Assessment(s) that Students Must Pass in Order to Graduate
2010-11	Grade 10 FCAT 2.0 Reading
2011-12 to Present	Grade 10 FCAT 2.0 Reading Algebra 1 EOC Assessment

The State Board of Education established Achievement Levels for FCAT 2.0 Reading and the Algebra 1 EOC Assessment on December 19, 2011. Table 2 shows the passing score for each assessment depending on the year students entered grade 9.

Table 2: Passing Scores for the Required Assessments

Assessment	Year Student Entered Grade 9	
	2010-11	2011-12 to Present
FCAT 2.0 Reading	245	245
Algebra 1 EOC Assessment	N/A	399 or above

Graduation Options

- Retaking the Statewide Assessments**—Students can retake the Grade 10 FCAT 2.0 Reading test or Algebra 1 EOC Assessment each time the test is administered until achieving a passing score, and students can enroll beyond the twelfth-grade year should they need additional instruction to pass an assessment. Students currently have up to five opportunities to pass the Grade 10 FCAT 2.0 Reading test before their scheduled graduation. Students who do not pass FCAT 2.0 Reading in the spring of their tenth-grade year may retest in fall and spring of their eleventh- and twelfth-grade years. The number of opportunities to retake the Algebra 1 EOC Assessment will depend on when students first take the test, since they typically take it at the conclusion

of the course. The Algebra 1 EOC Assessment is currently administered four times each year: in the fall, winter, spring and summer.

- Concordant and Comparative Scores Option**—A student can also graduate by receiving a score concordant to the FCAT 2.0 passing score on either the ACT or SAT and a score comparative to the Algebra 1 EOC Assessment passing score on the Postsecondary Education Readiness Test (PERT) (for FCAT concordant scores, see Table 4). FCAT 2.0 concordant scores for students entering grade 9 in 2010-11 and after were established in January 2013 by the department. These concordant scores and the Algebra 1 EOC Assessment comparative score for students entering grade 9 in 2011-12 and after were established in rule by the State Board of Education in September 2013.

Table 3 shows the concordant and comparative scores students must achieve based on the year they entered grade 9. Even if they have achieved a concordant score before the grade 10 assessment, all students enrolled in grade 10 are required to participate in the statewide assessments in accordance with section 1008.22, Florida Statutes (F.S.). Additionally, if students have achieved a comparative score on the PERT prior to enrolling in and completing Algebra 1 or an equivalent course, they must take the Algebra 1 EOC Assessment in accordance with s. 1008.22, F.S. Additional guidance regarding FCAT concordant scores is posted at <http://www.fldoe.org/BII/StudentPro/resources.asp>.

Table 3: Concordant and Comparative Scores by Year Students Entered Grade 9

Assessment	Reading	Algebra 1
	2010-11 to Present	2011-12 to Present
FCAT 2.0	245	N/A
SAT	430	N/A
ACT	19	N/A
Algebra 1 EOC Assessment	N/A	399
PERT	N/A	97

- High School Diploma Scholar Designation**—To qualify for a standard high school diploma Scholar designation, students must earn passing scores on each of the following statewide assessments: Biology 1 and U.S. History. The passing score for each EOC assessment is the minimum score in Achievement Level 3 (see <http://fcats.fldoe.org/fcat2/pdf/achlevel.pdf>). For students who took an EOC assessment during its implementation year, districts may opt to convert the reported T scores to the established score scale to determine the Achievement Level a student would have earned if the achievement standards had been implemented at that time, or a district may allow these students to retake the test. Districts received a conversion table that may be used to convert students’ T scores into the established scale scores. Additionally, districts may choose to administer an EOC assessment to students who did not have an opportunity to take it if they wish to qualify for the Scholar designation.
- Waivers for Students with Disabilities**—Students with disabilities who are working toward a standard high school diploma are expected to participate in the FCAT 2.0 and Florida EOC Assessments; however, legislation provides for a waiver of the FCAT 2.0 or Algebra 1 EOC Assessment as a requirement for graduating with a standard high school diploma for students with disabilities whose abilities cannot be accurately measured by the statewide assessments. Pursuant to s. 1008.22(3)(c)2., F.S., “A student with a disability, as defined in s. 1007.02(2), for whom the individual education plan (IEP) team determines that the statewide, standardized assessments under this section cannot accurately measure the student’s abilities, taking into consideration all

allowable accommodations, shall have assessment results waived for the purpose of receiving a course grade and a standard high school diploma. Such waiver shall be designated on the student’s transcript.” For additional information, contact the Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services at <http://www.fldoe.org/ese/>.

- **General Education Development (GED) Tests**—GED tests are designed to provide an opportunity for adults who have not graduated from high school to earn a state of Florida diploma by measuring the major academic skills and knowledge associated with a high school program of study that graduating seniors should know and be able to do, with increased emphasis on workplace and higher education. Passing GED tests may require some preparation. Local adult education programs sponsored by school districts, colleges and community organizations may assist students with determining how to best prepare for the tests. Additional information and resources regarding the GED may be accessed at <http://ged.fldoe.org/default.asp>.

Previous Scores Required for Graduation

Students Originally Scheduled to Graduate between 2004 and 2013—Students who entered grade 9 in the 2008-09 school year or prior and were originally scheduled to graduate between 2004 and 2012 must earn passing scores on Grade 10 FCAT Reading and Mathematics, or their equivalents. Beginning in 2012-13, students who have not achieved a passing score on FCAT Reading may take the FCAT 2.0 Reading Retake. Students who entered grade 9 in the 2009-10 school year must earn an alternate passing score (comparable to the passing score for Grade 10 FCAT Reading) on Grade 10 FCAT 2.0 Reading and a passing score on Grade 10 Mathematics. The required passing and concordant scores for students who entered grade 9 from 2001-01 to 2009-10 are provided in Table 4.

Table 4: Passing Scores for Students Entering Grade 9 from 2000-01 to 2009-10

Assessment	Reading	Mathematics
FCAT	1926 (scale score of 300) or above (Last administered in 2011-12)	1889 (scale score of 300) or above
FCAT 2.0	241 or above*	N/A
SAT Concordant Score	410 (for those students who entered grade 9 in 2006-07 or earlier) 420 (for those students who entered grade 9 in 2007-08, 2008-09 or 2009-10)	340**
ACT Concordant Score	15 (for those students who entered grade 9 in 2006-07 or earlier) 18 (for those students who entered grade 9 in 2007-08, 2008-09 or 2009-10)	15

*Students who participated in the Spring 2011 Grade 10 FCAT 2.0 Reading test received scores called FCAT Equivalent Scores that were reported on the FCAT score scale, and the passing score was 1926 (scale score of 300). This is comparable to a score of 241 on the FCAT 2.0.

**A concordant score of 370 on SAT Mathematics was previously established in 2003 as an alternative for the Grade 10 FCAT Mathematics requirement. This alternative passing score was lowered to a score of 340 after a concordance study was conducted in November 2009 on a revised, more challenging version of the SAT. Students required to pass FCAT Mathematics for graduation may submit a score of 340 or higher regardless of their year of enrollment in grade 9 if the score is dated March 2005 and beyond. Additional guidance is provided in the document posted at <http://www.fldoe.org/asp/k12memo/pdf/PolicyGuidance.pdf>.

- **Class of 2003**—Students who were originally scheduled to graduate in 2003 are still eligible for a lower passing score of 1856 (scale score of 287) or higher on Grade 10 FCAT Reading and 1868 (scale score of 295) or higher on Grade 10 FCAT Mathematics tests. Students eligible for this requirement may satisfy it by earning a Grade 10 FCAT 2.0 Reading score of 236 or higher.
- **High School Competency Test (HSCT)**—Passing scores on the FCAT Reading, FCAT Mathematics and FCAT 2.0 Reading have been established for students who were previously required to pass the HSCT. The concordant scores are provided in Table 5.

Table 5: HSCT/FCAT Concordant Scores for Eligible Students

Assessment	Reading	Mathematics
FCAT 2.0	229	N/A
FCAT	1753 (scale score of 268) (Last administered in 2011-12)	1799 (scale score of 278) (Last administered in 2012-13)
HSCT	700 (Last administered in June 2008)	700 (Last administered in June 2008)

Note: The approved HSCT concordant score for the 2011 FCAT 2.0 Reading test is an FCAT Equivalent Score of 268.

Helpful Resources

- The **K-12 Student Progression** website (<http://www.fldoe.org/BII/StudentPro/>) contains helpful resources regarding graduation options and FCAT concordant scores.
- The **Florida Achieves!** website (<http://www.florida-achieves.com/>) provides access to **FCAT Explorer** and to **FOCUS**. FCAT Explorer features skills practice for grades 3, 4, 6, 8 and 10 reading, 5, 8 and high school mathematics and elementary and middle school science as well as Biology 1. FOCUS offers mini-assessments for reading (grades 3-10), mathematics (grades 3-9, Algebra 1 and Geometry) and science (grades 5, 7, 8 and 11).
- The **FCAT 2.0 Homepage** (<http://fcat.fldoe.org/fcat2/>), **Florida EOC Assessments Homepage** (<http://fcat.fldoe.org/eoc/>) and **FCAT Homepage** (<http://fcat.fldoe.org/fcat/>) provide a wealth of information about the assessments and serve as valuable resources to students, parents/guardians and educators.
- **Schedules** for FCAT 2.0 and EOC assessment administrations are accessible from <http://www.fldoe.org/asp/schedule.asp> on the Florida Department of Education website.
- **Sample Questions and Answer Key Booklets** (<http://fcat.fldoe.org/fcatsmpl.asp>) are designed to help students become familiar with the test by providing helpful hints and offering practice answering questions in different formats. From this page, sample materials may be accessed for Grade 10 FCAT 2.0 Reading. Sample materials for EOC assessments are provided in the “Taking the Assessments” section of <http://fcat.fldoe.org/eoc/>.
- **Computer-based practice tests**, also called ePATs, may be downloaded at www.FLAssessments.com/ePAT. The practice test environment is identical to the actual testing platform that students will encounter on the day of testing, providing an opportunity for students to become familiar with the test format and online tools for all of the Florida EOC Assessments, as well as select FCAT 2.0 tests.