

## STATEWIDE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

The primary purpose of the statewide assessment program is to provide information needed to improve the public schools by maximizing the learning gains of all students and to inform parents of the education progress of their public school children.

The program is designed to:

- assess the annual learning gains of each student toward achieving the Florida Standards.
- provide data for making decisions regarding school accountability and recognition.
- identify the educational strengths and needs of students and the readiness of students to be promoted to the next grade level or to graduate from high school with a standard high school diploma.
- assess how well educational goals and performance standards are met at the school, district, and state levels.
- provide information to aid in the evaluation and development of educational programs and policies.

The Commissioner shall design and implement a statewide program of education assessments that provides information for the improvement of the operation and management of the public schools. Pursuant to the statewide assessment programs, the Commissioner shall:

- submit to the state board a list of student skills and competencies to which the goals for education include reading, writing, science and mathematics known as the Florida Standards; and
- develop and implement a uniform system of indicators to describe the performance of public school students and the characteristics of the public school districts and the public schools.

There shall be a student achievement testing program as part of the statewide assessment program, to be administered annually in Grades 3-11 to measure reading, writing, science, and mathematics. The testing program must include:

- Florida Standards Assessment (FSA) that measures and reports student proficiency levels in reading, writing, mathematics.
- Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) that measures and reports student proficiency levels in science.
- a score designated for each subject area tested. The school district shall provide appropriate remedial instruction to students who score below these levels.
- a Grade 10 assessment (FSA) for students who enroll in Grade 9 in the fall of 2014 and thereafter; or FCAT 2.0 for previous cohorts. Such students must earn a passing score on the Grade 10 assessment test in reading, to qualify for a regular high school diploma. The State Board of Education (SBOE) shall designate a passing score for the Grade 10 assessment test.
- participation in the statewide testing program is mandatory for all students, including students in the Department of Juvenile Justice programs. If a student does not participate in the assessment, the district must notify the student's parent and provide the parent with information on the implication for non-participation. If modifications are made in the student's instruction to provide accommodations that would not be permitted on statewide assessment tests, the district must notify the student's parent of the instructional modification implications. In such cases, the parent must provide signed consent for a student to receive instructional modifications not permitted on statewide assessment and must acknowledge in writing that he or she understands the implications of such accommodations. The SBOE shall adopt rules

for test accommodations and modification of such procedures for students in exceptional education programs and who have limited English proficiency. Accommodations that negate the validity of statewide assessment are not allowable.

- those students seeking an adult high school diploma must meet the same testing requirements that a regular high school student must meet.
- that the school district must provide instruction to prepare students to demonstrate proficiency in the skills and competencies necessary for successful grade-to-grade progression and high school graduation.

It is Florida's intent to participate in the measurement of national education goals. The Commissioner of Education shall direct school districts to participate in the administration of the National Assessment of Educational Progress, or a similar national assessment program, both for the national sample and for any state-by-state comparison programs which may be initiated.

The state as a whole shall work toward the goal that all students must make annual learning gains sufficient to acquire the knowledge, skills, and competencies needed to master state standards; successfully compete at the highest levels nationally and internationally; and be prepared to make well-reasoned, thoughtful, and healthy lifelong decisions.