

Graduation Requirements for Florida's Statewide Assessments

Overview

According to Florida law, students must meet certain academic requirements 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.

2019–20 School Year

Pursuant to Florida Department of Education (FDOE) [Emergency Order No. 2020-EO-01](#), the spring administration of K–12 statewide assessments for the 2019–20 school year that were scheduled to take place after March 16, 2020, were canceled and any outstanding assessment graduation requirements for seniors scheduled to graduate in spring 2020 were waived. While the requirements themselves (detailed in this document) did not change, this specific group of students are not required to meet them if they had not already done so.

For non-seniors who were enrolled in grade 10 and/or Algebra 1 (or an equivalent course) during spring 2020 and who were scheduled to take the grade 10 English Language Arts (ELA) and/or Algebra 1 end-of-course (EOC) assessments, Emergency Order No. 2020-EO-01 waived the requirement that these students participate in the applicable assessment. However, these students are still required to meet these graduation requirements by passing the applicable assessment during a future administration or by earning the appropriate concordant or comparative score, as detailed in tables 3 and 4. These students may participate in any ELA Retake or applicable EOC administration to meet their graduation requirement, but are not required to do so prior to using a concordant or comparative score.

Finally, participation and 30% final grade calculation requirements for students who were scheduled to take a spring 2020 EOC assessment were waived. However, students who need to pass the Biology 1, Geometry, and/or U.S. History EOC assessment for Scholar diploma designation purposes must still do so to earn the designation. These students may participate in any applicable EOC administration to meet the Scholar diploma designation requirements.

Graduation Requirements

Grade 10 Florida Standards Assessments English Language Arts

The ELA assessment students must pass to graduate with a standard high school diploma is determined by each student's year of enrollment in grade 9. The Florida Standards Assessments (FSA), aligned to the Florida Standards, were introduced in 2014–15, and the Grade 10 FSA ELA Assessment was first administered in spring 2015. Table 1 below lists the required passing score for the Grade 10 FSA ELA (Reading and Writing) based on grade 9 cohort.

Table 1: FSA ELA Assessment Requirement and Passing Score by School Year

| School Year When Students Entered Grade 9 | Passing Score |
|---|---|
| 2014–15 to current | 350 |
| 2013–14 | 349 ¹ (alternate passing score) |

¹ In addition to the 2013–14 cohort, any student who took the assessment prior to the adoption of the passing score on the new scale adopted by the State Board (January 7, 2016) is eligible to use the alternate passing score for graduation, which is linked to the passing score for the previous assessment requirement.

For more information on the Grade 10 FSA ELA Assessment, please see the [2020–21 Florida Statewide Grade-Level Assessments Fact Sheet](#).

FSA Algebra 1 End-of-Course Assessment

The Algebra 1 EOC assessment students must pass to graduate with a standard high school diploma is determined by when students completed Algebra 1 or an equivalent course. Students who completed an applicable course in the 2014–15 school year and beyond are required to pass the FSA Algebra 1 EOC Assessment, and the required passing score is determined by when students first participated in an FSA Algebra 1 EOC Assessment administration. The FSA Algebra 1 EOC Assessment was first administered in spring 2015. Table 2 below lists the required passing score for the FSA Algebra 1 EOC Assessment based on when the student first participated.

Table 2: FSA Algebra 1 EOC Assessment Requirement and Passing Score by First Participation

| First Participation in FSA Algebra 1 EOC | Passing Score |
|--|----------------------------------|
| Spring 2016 and beyond | 497 |
| Spring, Summer, Fall or Winter 2015 | 489 (alternate passing score) |

For more information on the FSA Algebra 1 EOC Assessment, please see the [2020–21 Florida Statewide End-of-Course Assessments Fact Sheet](#).

Graduation Options

- Statewide Assessment Retakes**—Students can retake the Grade 10 FSA ELA Assessment or FSA Algebra 1 EOC Assessment each time the test is administered until they achieve a passing score, and students can continue their high school education beyond the twelfth-grade year should they need additional instruction. Students who do not pass the grade 10 ELA assessment in the spring of their tenth-grade year may retest in fall and spring of their eleventh- and twelfth-grade years. The FSA ELA Retake Assessment is administered each fall and spring administration; the FSA Algebra 1 EOC Assessment is administered in each fall, winter, spring, and summer EOC administration.
- Concordant and Comparative Scores**—A student can also meet assessment graduation requirements by earning a concordant or comparative score as specified in [Rule 6A-1.09422](#), Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.). Tables 3 and 4 below and on the following page show the concordant and comparative scores students may use to satisfy assessment graduation requirements.

Table 3: Grade 10 ELA Concordant Scores

| Grade 10 FSA ELA or Grade 10 FCAT 2.0 Reading | |
|--|-----|
| Available for all students who entered grade 9 in 2010–11 and beyond: | |
| SAT Evidence-Based Reading and Writing (EBRW) ¹ | 480 |
| ACT English and Reading subtests ² | 18 |
| Available only for students who entered grade 9 prior to 2018–19: | |
| SAT EBRW ¹ | 430 |
| SAT Reading Subtest ³ | 24 |
| ACT Reading | 19 |

¹ Administered in March 2016 or beyond. The combined score for the EBRW must come from the same administration of the Reading and Writing subtests.

² The average of the English and Reading subtests. If the average of the two subject test scores results in a decimal (.5), the score shall be rounded up to the next whole number. The scores for the English and Reading subject tests are not required to come from the same test administration.

³ Administered in March 2016 or beyond. Students who entered grade 9 prior to 2018–19 may also use a concordant score of 430 on the SAT Critical Reading if administered prior to March 2016.

Table 4: Algebra 1 EOC Comparative Scores

| Algebra 1 EOC (FSA or NGSSS) | |
|--|-----|
| Available for all students who entered grade 9 in 2010–11 and beyond: | |
| PSAT/NMSQT Math ¹ | 430 |
| SAT Math ² | 420 |
| ACT Math | 16 |
| FSA Geometry EOC ³ | 499 |
| Available only for students who entered grade 9 prior to 2018–19: | |
| PERT Mathematics | 97 |

¹ Administered in 2015 or beyond. Students who entered grade 9 in 2010–11 and beyond may also use a comparative score of 39 on PSAT/NMSQT Math if it was earned prior to 2015.

² Administered in March 2016 or beyond. Students who entered grade 9 in 2010–11 and beyond may also use a comparative score of 380 on SAT Math if it was earned prior to March 2016.

³ Students eligible for either the FSA Algebra 1 EOC alternate passing score of 489 or the FSA Geometry EOC passing score of 492, as defined by [Rule 6A-1.09422\(6\)-\(7\), F.A.C.](#), may use the alternate passing score of 492 on the FSA Geometry EOC as an Algebra 1 EOC comparative score. See the Scholar Diploma Designation section on the next page for eligibility criteria.

In accordance with section (s.) 1008.22, Florida Statutes (F.S.), all students enrolled in grade 10 are required to participate in the grade 10 ELA assessment and all students enrolled in Algebra 1 or an equivalent course are required to participate in the Algebra 1 EOC assessment, regardless of whether they have a passing concordant or comparative score on file.

- **Scholar Diploma Designation**—In accordance with s. [1003.4285\(1\)\(a\)](#), F.S., to qualify for a Scholar diploma designation on a standard high school diploma, a student must earn a passing score on each of the statewide assessments shown in Table 5.

Table 5: Passing Scores Required for a Scholar Diploma Designation

| Student Entered Ninth Grade | EOC Assessment | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| | Geometry | Biology 1 ¹ | U.S. History ¹ |
| 2010–11 through 2013–14 | | X | X |
| 2014–15 and beyond | X | X | X |

¹ A student meets this requirement without passing the Biology 1 or U.S. History EOC assessment if the student is enrolled in an Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), or Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) Biology 1 or U.S. History course and the student:

- Takes the respective AP, IB, or AICE assessment, and
- Earns the minimum score to earn college credit.

The passing score for each EOC assessment is the minimum score in Achievement Level 3 (see the Assessment Results section on the [End-of-Course Assessments page](#) on the FDOE website).

The passing score for the FSA Geometry EOC Assessment was adopted in State Board of Education rule in January 2016. For students who took the FSA Geometry EOC Assessment in the 2014–15 school year or in 2016 prior to the adoption of passing scores, the alternate passing score is **492**, which corresponds to the passing score of 396 for the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards (NGSSS) Geometry EOC Assessment, last administered in December 2014. Students who are eligible for this alternate passing score may also use it as a comparative score for the Algebra 1 EOC graduation requirement.

- **Waivers of Results for Students with Disabilities**—Students with disabilities working toward a standard high school diploma are expected to participate in statewide, standardized assessments. State law, however, provides for a waiver of statewide, standardized assessment results for graduation purposes for students with disabilities whose abilities cannot be accurately measured by the 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, visit the [Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services webpage](#).

- **High School Equivalency Diploma Program (2014 GED® Test)**—The high school equivalency diploma program is designed to provide an opportunity for adults who have not graduated from high school to earn a GED®, the only state-approved high school equivalency diploma, by measuring the major academic skills and knowledge associated with a high school program of study, with increased emphasis on workplace and higher education. The state selected the 2014 GED® test as the assessment for the high school equivalency program during a competitive process conducted in 2014. The 2014 GED® test includes four required content area tests: Reasoning through Language Arts, Mathematical Reasoning, Science, and Social Studies. It is a computer-based test. Passing the test may require some preparation. Adult education programs located in school districts, colleges, and community organizations provide instruction and the opportunity to practice the skills necessary to meet the minimum passing score of **145**. The FDOE website has additional information and resources regarding the [GED® test](#) and the [high school equivalency program](#).

Previous Scores Required for Graduation

Previous assessment requirements beginning with students originally scheduled to graduate in 2004 are as follows:

- Students who entered grade 9 in the 2000–01 school year through the 2008–09 school year and were originally scheduled to graduate between 2004 and 2013 were required to earn passing scores on grade 10 FCAT Reading and Mathematics assessments, or their equivalents.
- Students who entered grade 9 in the 2009–10 school year were required to 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 FCAT Mathematics, or their equivalents.
- Students who entered grade 9 in the 2010–11 school year through the 2012–13 school year were required to earn a passing score of **245** on the Grade 10 FCAT 2.0 Reading Assessment.
- Students who completed Algebra 1 or an equivalent course in the 2011–12 school year through the 2013–14 school year were required to earn a passing score of **399** on the NGSSS Algebra 1 EOC Assessment.

Students with these requirements currently have the following opportunities to meet them:

- Students whose graduation requirement is Grade 10 FCAT Reading must earn an alternate passing score (see Table 1) on the FSA ELA Retake or a concordant score as described in Table 3.
- Students whose graduation requirement is Grade 10 FCAT Mathematics must earn a score comparative to the Algebra 1 EOC as described in Table 4. Students may also meet the FCAT Mathematics requirement by passing the FSA Algebra 1 EOC Assessment.
- Students whose graduation requirement is Grade 10 FCAT 2.0 Reading may satisfy this requirement by earning the alternate passing score of **349** on the FSA ELA Retake or by earning a concordant score as described in Table 3.
- Students whose graduation requirement is the NGSSS Algebra 1 EOC Assessment may satisfy this requirement by earning the alternate passing score of **489** on the FSA Algebra 1 EOC Assessment or by earning a comparative score as described in Table 4.
 - Note: Students who entered grade 9 in the 2010–11 school year were required to earn course credit in Algebra 1 or an equivalent course and participate in the NGSSS Algebra 1 EOC Assessment. The results of the NGSSS Algebra 1 EOC Assessment must constitute 30% of these students' final course grade, but there is not a passing requirement for this cohort of students.

The required passing and concordant scores for students who entered grade 9 from 2000–01 to 2009–10 are provided in Table 6 below.

Class of 2003—Students who were originally scheduled to graduate in 2003 may satisfy their graduation requirement by earning a score of **339** on the Grade 10 FSA ELA Assessment, which is equivalent to a score of **236** on Grade 10 FCAT 2.0 Reading Assessment. The Mathematics requirement for Class of 2003 students is the same as that described in Table 6.

High School Competency Test (HSCT) Requirement—The HSCT State Board Rule ([6A-1.09421, F.A.C.](#)) was repealed in fall 2015. Students who were scheduled to graduate in 2002 or earlier and have not passed the HSCT as part of their graduation requirements will need to enroll in an adult education program to earn a standard high school diploma. In accordance with [Rule 6A-6.020, F.A.C.](#), those who enter adult high school after their ninth-grade cohort has graduated or who are not part of a ninth-grade cohort must meet the current grade 12 cohort’s graduation requirements that are in effect the year they enter adult high school.

Table 6: Passing Scores for Students Entering Grade 9 from 2000–01 to 2009–10

| Assessment | Reading | Mathematics |
|-----------------------------|--|---------------------------|
| FCAT | 1926 (scale score of 300) | 1889 (scale score of 300) |
| FCAT 2.0 | 241 ¹ | N/A |
| SAT Concordant Score | <u>SAT administered prior to March 2016</u> For students who entered grade 9 in 2006–07 or earlier: 410 – Critical Reading For students who entered grade 9 in 2007–08, 2008–09, or 2009–10: 420 – Critical Reading | 340 ² |
| | <u>SAT administered after March 2016</u> For students who entered grade 9 in 2006–07 or earlier: 410 – Evidence-Based Reading and Writing (EBRW) OR 22 – Reading Subtest For students who entered grade 9 in 2007–08, 2008–09, or 2009–10: 420 – EBRW OR 23 – Reading Subtest | |
| ACT Concordant Score | 15 (for students who entered grade 9 in 2006–07 or earlier) 18 (for students who entered grade 9 in 2007–08, 2008–09, or 2009–10) | 15 |

¹ Students who participated in the spring 2011 Grade 10 FCAT 2.0 Reading Assessment 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.

² 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.

Helpful Resources

- For a full schedule of all statewide assessments, see the [2020–2021 Statewide Assessment Schedule](#). Flexibility will be offered this year based on district shifts in school year calendars.
- An academic advisement flyer for students related to graduation requirements is available on the [Graduation Requirements](#) page.
- The [Florida Statewide Assessments Portal](#) provides information about the assessments currently administered and serves as valuable resources to students, parents/guardians, and educators.
- [FloridaStudents.org](#) provides student tutorials and resources for the Florida Standards.
- [CPALMS.org](#) is Florida’s official source for standards information and course descriptions and includes helpful resources for educators and students.
- The [Statewide Assessment Program Information Guide](#) describes the processes involved in developing, administering, and scoring the FSA and NGSSS assessments.