



# 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: **Grade 10 FCAT 2.0 Reading and Florida End-of-Course (EOC) 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. Depending on the school year when the student enters the ninth grade, students who do not pass the required Florida EOC Assessments will not receive credit in the courses assessed by the EOC. Passing scores for the statewide assessments are determined by the State Board of Education.

## Graduation Requirements

- FCAT 2.0 and Florida EOC Assessments**—Students who entered grade 9 in the 2009-10 school year and thereafter must pass Grade 10 FCAT 2.0 Reading in order to graduate. Students must pass the EOC assessments listed in Table 1 to earn high school credit for each course. **Credit in these courses is required for high school graduation.** This requirement also applies to middle school students seeking high school course credit for Algebra 1, Biology 1, and Geometry. Table 1 provides the school year when these requirements began for students entering grade 9 and for middle school students enrolled in these courses.

**Table 1: Assessment Requirement by School Year**

School Year When Assessment Requirements Began for Students Entering Grade 9 and Middle School Students	Assessment(s) that Students Must Pass in Order to Graduate
2009-10	Grade 10 FCAT 2.0 Reading Grade 10 FCAT Mathematics
2010-11	Grade 10 FCAT 2.0 Reading
2011-12	Grade 10 FCAT 2.0 Reading Algebra 1 EOC Assessment
2012-13	Grade 10 FCAT 2.0 Reading Algebra 1 EOC Assessment Biology 1 EOC Assessment Geometry 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. The State Board established achievement levels for the Biology 1 and Geometry EOC Assessments on December 12, 2012. 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			
	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13 and Beyond
<b>FCAT 2.0 Reading</b>	241*	245	245	245
<b>FCAT Mathematics</b>	1889 (scale score of 300) or above	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Algebra 1 EOC Assessment</b>	N/A	N/A	399 or above	399 or above
<b>Biology 1 EOC Assessment</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	395 or above
<b>Geometry EOC Assessment</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	396 or above

\*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 concordant (or comparable) to a score of 241 on the FCAT 2.0.

### Graduation Options

- Retaking the Statewide Assessments**—Students can retake Grade 10 FCAT 2.0 Reading each time the test is administered until achieving a passing score, and students can enroll beyond the 12<sup>th</sup> grade year should they need additional instruction to pass an assessment. Students currently have up to five opportunities to pass Grade 10 FCAT 2.0 Reading before their scheduled graduation. The number of opportunities to retake EOC assessments will depend on when students first participate in each EOC assessment. Students who do not pass FCAT 2.0 Reading in the spring of their 10<sup>th</sup> grade year may retest in fall and spring of their 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade years.

In addition, if students do not pass the required Florida EOC assessments, they will not earn the course credit required to graduate from high school and must retake the assessment until they pass it. Each EOC assessment is administered at the conclusion of both the fall and spring semesters to accommodate courses that conclude at the end of each semester. In addition to fall and spring administrations, there is a summer administration for each EOC assessment.

- Concordant Scores Option**—A student can also graduate by receiving a score comparable to the FCAT or FCAT 2.0 passing score on either the ACT or SAT. FCAT concordant scores were set in 2003 and revised in 2009. FCAT 2.0 concordant scores for students entering grade 9 in 2010-11 and after were established in January 2013.

Table 3 shows the concordant 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 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 Scores by Year Student Entered Grade 9**

Assessment	Reading		Mathematics
	2009-10	2010-11 and beyond	2009-10 and earlier
FCAT	N/A	N/A	1889 (scale score of 300)
FCAT 2.0	241*	245	N/A
SAT	420	430	340
ACT	18	19	15

\*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 concordant (or comparable) to a score of 241 on the FCAT 2.0.

- **Community College**—Graduates with a Certificate of Completion may enroll in any public community college in Florida by taking the Postsecondary Education Readiness Test (P.E.R.T.) to determine if they qualify to register for college-credit courses or must take remedial courses to continue their college-preparatory studies.
- **Waiver of the FCAT and EOC Graduation Requirements for Students with Disabilities**—Students with disabilities who are working toward a standard high school diploma are expected to participate in the FCAT and FCAT 2.0; however, legislation provides for a waiver of the FCAT and FCAT 2.0 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 after attempting each required assessment at least twice. The individual educational plan (IEP) team may request a waiver of the FCAT/FCAT 2.0 requirement for a standard high school diploma for those students with disabilities identified in the Enhanced New Needed Opportunity for Better Life and Education for Students with Disabilities Act (ENNOBLES) who also meet the requirements set forth in Sections 1003.43(11)(b) or 1003.428(8)(b), Florida Statutes. Students with disabilities with Section 504 plans are not eligible for a waiver.

Students with disabilities enrolled in courses for which a statewide EOC assessment is required are expected to participate in the Florida EOC Assessments. Waivers are available for an EOC requirement for students who have IEPs. The IEP team must determine that an EOC assessment cannot accurately measure the student’s abilities, taking into consideration all allowable accommodations. The student may have the EOC assessment results waived for the purpose of determining the student’s course grade and credit.

- **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>.

## Helpful Resources

- The **K-12 Student Progression** website, located at <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**, which features grade 10 skills practice for reading and mathematics public school students, and to **FOCUS**, which 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 Homepage** (<http://fcat.fldoe.org/fcat>), **FCAT 2.0 Homepage** (<http://fcat.fldoe.org/fcat2/>), and **Florida EOC Assessments Homepage** (<http://fcat.fldoe.org/eoc/>) provide a wealth of information about the assessments and serve as valuable resources to students, parents, and educators.
- **Schedules** for FCAT, FCAT 2.0, and EOC assessment administrations are accessible from <http://www.fldoe.org/asp/schedule.asp> on the Department of Education website.
- **Sample Questions and Answer Key Booklets**, located at <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 Mathematics and 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](http://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 selected FCAT and FCAT 2.0 assessments.
- **Released Grade 10 FCAT Test Books and Answer Keys** are available at <http://fcat.fldoe.org/fcatrelease.asp>. The FCAT Released Tests are provided in PDF format.

## Previous Scores Required for Graduation

- **Students Originally Scheduled to Graduate between 2004 and 2012**—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 the Grade 10 FCAT Reading and Mathematics, or their equivalent. Beginning in 2012-13, students who have not achieved passing scores in reading must take the FCAT 2.0 Reading Retake. The required passing scores for these students are provided in Table 4.

**Table 4: Passing Scores for Students Entering Grade 9 from 2000-01 to 2008-09**

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 or 2008-09)	370 (for those students who entered grade 9 in 2006-07 or earlier) 340 (for those students who entered grade 9 in 2007-08 or 2008-09)
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 or 2008-09)	15

\* The last administration of the FCAT Mathematics Retake will occur in spring 2013. Students who still need to satisfy the Grade 10 FCAT Mathematics graduation requirement after spring 2013 must earn a concordant score on the ACT or SAT.

- **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 assessments. 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)	1799 (scale score of 278)
HSCT	700	700

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