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 (SBE).

Students Graduating During the 2022–23 School Year

A student can meet assessment graduation requirements by earning the required statewide, standardized assessment score or a concordant or comparative score. Adopted during the 2023 Legislative Session, House Bill 1537 establishes, in state law, the concordant and comparative scores listed below that students who are in the 2022–23 graduating class may use to meet their assessment graduation requirements if they have not yet earned the required passing score on the Grade 10 English Language Arts (ELA) assessment or the Algebra 1 End-of-Course (EOC) assessment.

Table 1: Concordant and Comparative Scores for Students in the 2022–23 Graduating Class

Grade 10 ELA Assessment Requirement	
SAT Evidence-Based Reading and Writing (EBRW)[1]	430
SAT Reading Subtest[2]	24
ACT Reading	19
ACT English and Reading subtests (averaged)[3]	18
Algebra 1 EOC Assessment Requirement	
PERT	114
PSAT/NMSQT Mathematics[4]	430
SAT Mathematics[5]	420
ACT Mathematics	16
Geometry EOC	Level 3

[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] Administered in March 2016 or beyond. Students who entered grade 9 prior to 2019–20 may also use a concordant score of 430 on the SAT Critical Reading if administered prior to March 2016.

[3] For the ACT English and Reading subtests, if the average of the two subject test scores results in a decimal of 0.5, the scores shall be rounded up to the next whole number. Additionally, the scores for the English and Reading subject test on the ACT are not required to come from the same test administration.

[4] 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.

[5] 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.

Graduation Requirements

Grade 10 English Language Arts

The ELA assessment information below outlines the requirements students must meet to graduate with a standard high school diploma, as determined by the student's year of enrollment in grade 9. The Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST) assessments, aligned to the Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking (B.E.S.T.) Standards, are being administered for the first time in the 2022–23 school year. Students must earn a passing grade 10 ELA Reading score in the third progress monitoring window (PM3) to meet this graduation requirement. 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 regardless of whether they have a passing concordant score on file.

While the Grade 10 Florida Standards Assessments (FSA) ELA Assessment was administered for the final time in spring 2022, it will continue to be offered during the fall and spring as a retake administration for students who need to meet their graduation requirement. Students with the Grade 10 FSA ELA requirement may also satisfy it by earning an alternate passing score on the FAST ELA Reading Retake (2023–24 and beyond) or a passing score on the Grade 10 FAST ELA Reading PM3 Assessment (Spring 2023 only).

Table 2 below lists each required passing score for the Grade 10 ELA assessment based on grade 9 cohort.

Table 2: ELA Assessment Requirement and Passing Score by School Year

School Year When Students Entered Grade 9	Assessment	Passing Score
2021–22	FAST ELA Reading	350[1]
2014–15 to 2020–21[2]	FSA ELA	350
2013–14	FSA ELA	349[3]

[1] For the 2022–23 school year, scores for FAST assessments are linked to the 2021-2022 reporting scale, as required by s. 1008.34(7)(d), F.S. Students who take the FAST Grade 10 ELA Reading Assessment prior to the adoption of the passing score by the State Board of Education will be able to use these scores to meet their graduation requirement.

[2] Please see the 2020–21 School Year and 2019–20 School Year sections on page 5 of this document for additional information on requirements for students scheduled to graduate in these school years.

[3] 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 SBE (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 FAST ELA Reading Assessment, please see the 2022–23 FAST Grades 3–10 ELA Reading and Grades 3–8 Mathematics Fact Sheet.

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 complete an applicable course in the 2022–23 school year are required to pass the B.E.S.T. Algebra 1 EOC assessment. In accordance with s. 1008.22, F.S., 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 comparative score on file.

The FSA Algebra 1 EOC Assessment will be administered for the final time in the fall 2022 administration but will continue to be available as a retake administration in the spring and fall for those who need to meet their graduation requirement. Students may also meet this requirement by earning a passing score on the B.E.S.T. Algebra 1 EOC Assessment. Once the new scale is adopted for the B.E.S.T. Algebra 1 EOC Assessment, students with the FSA requirement will be able to use the alternate passing score on the B.E.S.T. scale.

Table 3 below lists the required passing score for the FSA Algebra 1 EOC Assessment based on when the student first participated.

Table 3: Algebra 1 EOC Assessment Requirement and Passing Score by First Participation

First Participation in Algebra 1 EOC	Assessment	Passing Score
Winter 2022 and beyond	B.E.S.T. Algebra 1 EOC	497[1]
Spring 2016–Spring 2022[2]	FSA Algebra 1 EOC	497
Spring, Summer, Fall or Winter 2015	FSA Algebra 1 EOC	489[3]

[1] For the 2022–23 school year, scores for B.E.S.T. assessments are linked to the 2021-2022 reporting scale, as required by law. Students who take the B.E.S.T. Algebra 1 EOC Assessment prior to the adoption of the passing score on the new B.E.S.T. scale by the State Board of Education will be able to use this score to meet their graduation requirement.

[2] Please see the 2020–21 School Year and 2019–20 School Year sections on page 5 for additional information on requirements for students scheduled to graduate in these school years.

[3] Any student who took the assessment prior to the adoption of the passing score on the new scale adopted by the SBE (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 B.E.S.T. Algebra 1 EOC Assessment, please see the B.E.S.T. Assessments webpage.

Graduation Options

- **Statewide Assessment Retakes**—Students can participate in the grade 10 ELA Retake or the 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. Please see the Statewide Assessment Schedule page for more information on the administration windows for these assessments.
- **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 4 and 5 show the concordant and comparative scores students may use to satisfy assessment graduation requirements.

Table 4: Grade 10 ELA Concordant Scores

Grade 10 FAST ELA Reading[1], Grade 10 FSA ELA or Grade 10 FCAT 2.0 Reading	
Available for *all* students who entered grade 9 in 2010–11 and beyond[5]:	
SAT EBRW[2]	480
ACT English and Reading subtests[3]	18
Available *only* for students who entered grade 9 between the 2010–11 and 2019–20[5] school years:	
SAT EBRW[2]	430
SAT Reading Subtest[4]	24
ACT Reading	19

[1] Students whose graduation requirement is the Grade 10 FAST ELA Reading Assessment may use concordant scores aligned to the FSA Grade 10 ELA Assessment (those listed for all students who entered grade 9 in 2010–11 and beyond) until the State Board of Education adopts concordant scores aligned to the Grade 10 FAST ELA Reading Assessment.

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

[3] The average of the English and Reading subtests. If the average of the two subject test scores results in a decimal of 0.5 or higher, 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.

[4] Administered in March 2016 or beyond. Students who entered grade 9 prior to 2019–20 may also use a concordant score of 430 on the SAT Critical Reading if administered prior to March 2016.

[5] See Table 1 for additional guidance on *all* concordant score options for students graduating in 2022–23.

Table 5: Algebra 1 EOC Comparative Scores

Algebra 1 EOC (B.E.S.T.[1], FSA, NGSSS)	
Available for *all* students who entered grade 9 in 2020–21 and beyond:	
PSAT/NMSQT Math[2]	430
SAT Math[3]	420
ACT Math	16
Geometry EOC[4]	Level 3
Available *only* for students who entered grade 9 between the 2011–12 and 2018–19 school years:	
PERT Mathematics	97

[1] Students whose assessment graduation requirement is the B.E.S.T. Algebra 1 EOC Assessment may use comparative scores aligned to the FSA Algebra 1 EOC Assessment (those listed for all students who entered grade 9 in 2010–11 and beyond) until the State Board of Education adopts concordant scores aligned to the B.E.S.T. Algebra 1 EOC

Assessment and determines the date by which students must begin using the new comparative scores.

[2] 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.

[3] 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.

[4] 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 below for eligibility criteria.

- **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 6.

Table 6: Passing Scores Required for a Scholar Diploma Designation

	EOC Assessment		
Student Entered Ninth Grade	**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. Students participating in the Biology 1 and/or U.S. History EOC assessment must earn a Level 3 on the NGSSS scale to achieve a passing score. For the 2022–23 school year, students participating in the B.E.S.T. Geometry EOC prior to the adoption of B.E.S.T. cut scores in fall 2023 must earn a Level 3 on the FSA scale.

The passing score for the FSA Geometry EOC Assessment was adopted in SBE 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 the new passing scores, the alternate passing score is 492. 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)(d)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.

2020–21 School Year

Pursuant to Florida Department of Education (FDOE) Emergency Order No. 2021-EO-02, outstanding assessment graduation requirements for seniors scheduled to graduate in spring 2021 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. Districts were also authorized to waive Biology 1, Geometry, and/or U.S. History EOC assessment requirements for Scholar diploma designation purposes for students expected to graduate in the spring of 2021.

FDOE Emergency Order No. 2020-EO-02 also authorized districts and charter school governing boards to determine promotion and final course grades in classes with state EOC exams based solely on student performance in the course, including in instances where the student did not have a score from the EOC exam. This authorization applied to courses students successfully completed in the 2020–21 school year.

2019–20 School Year

Pursuant to 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 ELA and/or Algebra 1 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 4 and 5. 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.

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 2) on the FSA ELA Retake or a concordant score as described in Table 7.
- Students whose graduation requirement is Grade 10 FCAT Mathematics must earn a score comparative to the Algebra 1 EOC as described in Table 7. 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 4.
- 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 5.
    - 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.
- Any student with these previous requirements may meet them by passing the current graduation tests.

The required passing and concordant scores for students who entered grade 9 from 2000–01 to 2009–10 are provided in Table 7 below and on the following page.

Table 7: 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 <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	340[2]
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.

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 7 above.

High School Competency Test (HSCT) Requirement—The HSCT SBE 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.

Helpful Resources

- For a full schedule of all statewide assessments, see the 2022–2023 Statewide Assessment Schedule.
- An academic advisement flyer for students related to graduation requirements is available on the Graduation Requirements page.
- The FL FAST Portal provides information about the assessments currently administered and serves to provide 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.