

# Graduation Requirements for Florida's Statewide Assessments

## Overview

According to [section \(s.\) 1003.4282](#), Florida Statutes (F.S.), students must meet certain academic requirements to earn a standard high school diploma from a public school, including passing required courses, earning a minimum number of credits, earning a minimum grade point average, and passing certain 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) and defined in [Rule 6A-1.09422](#), Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.).

## Assessment Graduation Requirements

On October 18, 2023, the SBE adopted new score scales and passing scores for the statewide, standardized assessments aligned to the Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking (B.E.S.T.), which include the Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST) and B.E.S.T. end-of-course (EOC) assessments. The FAST assessments and B.E.S.T. EOC assessments were administered for the first time during the 2022–23 school year, and the passing scores adopted by the SBE are effective beginning with the second administration (PM2) of FAST during the 2023–24 school year and the Winter 2023 B.E.S.T. EOC administration. The passing standard for a student is determined based on when they took or will take the required assessment, as outlined in the sections and tables below. Students who took these tests for the first time and passed prior to the rule adoption have met the assessment graduation requirement.

### Grade 10 FAST English Language Arts (ELA) Reading Assessment

The ELA assessment students must pass to graduate with a standard high school diploma is determined by the student's year of enrollment in grade 9. The FAST Grade 10 ELA Assessment is the required assessment for graduation purposes for students who entered grade 9 in 2021–22 and after. The FAST assessments, aligned to the B.E.S.T. Standards, were administered for the first time during the 2022–23 school year. Students must earn a passing Grade 10 FAST ELA Reading score in the third progress monitoring window (PM3) to meet this graduation requirement (see Table 1). In accordance with [s. 1008.22](#), 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.

For more information on the Grade 10 FAST ELA Reading Assessment, please see the [FAST Assessments webpage](#).

### B.E.S.T. Algebra 1 EOC 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 and beyond are required to pass the B.E.S.T. Algebra 1 EOC Assessment (see Table 1). 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.

For more information on the B.E.S.T. Algebra 1 EOC Assessment, please see the [B.E.S.T. Assessments webpage](#).

### Florida Standards Assessment (FSA) Graduation Requirements

Students whose graduation requirement is the Grade 10 FSA ELA may satisfy their grade 10 ELA assessment requirement by earning a passing score on the FAST ELA Reading Retake.

Students whose graduation requirement is the FSA Algebra 1 EOC Assessment may satisfy their Algebra 1 assessment graduation requirement by earning a passing score on the B.E.S.T. Algebra 1 EOC Assessment.

Students with the FSA ELA Reading or FSA Algebra 1 EOC graduation assessment requirement may satisfy that requirement by using the applicable alternate passing score on the B.E.S.T. scale (see Table 2).

**Table 1** lists passing scores required for graduation for the grade 10 ELA and Algebra 1 assessments.

**Table 1: Graduation Assessment Requirements and Passing Score by School Year**

Grade 10 ELA				
School Year When Students Entered Grade 9	Assessment	Passing Score	Score Scale	Score Scale Range
2022–23 and beyond	FAST ELA Reading	247	B.E.S.T.	179-308
2021–22 <sup>2</sup>	FAST ELA Reading	246 <sup>1</sup>	B.E.S.T.	179-308
		350	Provisional <sup>3</sup>	284-412
2014–15 to 2020–21 <sup>4</sup>	FSA ELA	350	FSA	284-412
2013–14	FSA ELA	349 <sup>5</sup>	FSA	284-412
Algebra 1				
First Participation in Algebra 1 EOC	Assessment	Passing Score	Score Scale	Score Scale Range
Winter 2023 and beyond	B.E.S.T. Algebra 1 EOC	400	B.E.S.T.	325-475
Winter 2022–Fall 2023	B.E.S.T. Algebra 1 EOC	398 <sup>1</sup>	B.E.S.T.	325-475
		497	Provisional <sup>3</sup>	425-575
Spring 2016–Fall 2022 <sup>4</sup>	FSA Algebra 1 EOC	497	FSA	425-575
Spring, Summer, Fall or Winter 2015	FSA Algebra 1 EOC	489 <sup>5</sup>	FSA	425-575

<sup>1</sup> The Alternate Passing Scores (APS) on the B.E.S.T. scale are 246 for FAST Grade 10 ELA Reading and 398 for B.E.S.T. Algebra 1.

<sup>2</sup> Students who entered grade 9 prior to the 2021–22 school year are also eligible for the APS (see Tables 2 and 8).

<sup>3</sup> For the 2022–23 school year, scores for FAST and B.E.S.T. assessments were linked to and reported on the 2021–22 FSA score scale, as required by s. 1008.34(7)(d), F.S. Students who took the FAST Grade 10 ELA Reading Assessment or B.E.S.T. Algebra 1 EOC prior to the adoption of the new passing scores by the State Board of Education are able to use these scores to meet their graduation requirement.

<sup>4</sup> Please see the “2020–21 School Year” and “2019–20 School Year” sections of this document for additional information on requirements for students scheduled to graduate in these school years.

<sup>5</sup> In addition to the 2013–14 cohort for FSA ELA and the 2015 cohort for Algebra 1 EOC, any student who took the FSA assessment prior to the adoption of the passing score on the FSA 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.

### Alternate Passing Scores

Table 2 lists alternate passing scores for FAST and B.E.S.T. assessments. Students whose graduation requirements were for previous assessments or students who participated in an administration of the applicable FAST or B.E.S.T. assessment prior to the adoption of cut scores for that assessment are eligible to use an alternate passing score linked to the passing score on the previous assessment for the purpose of meeting an assessment graduation requirement. Alternate Passing Score information for FCAT/FCAT 2.0 assessments is located in Table 8.

**Table 2: FAST/B.E.S.T. Alternate Passing Scores**

Assessment	Graduation/Assessment Requirement	Alternate Passing Score	Score Scale
FAST Grade 10 ELA Reading	FSA	246	B.E.S.T.
B.E.S.T. Algebra 1	FSA	398	B.E.S.T.
B.E.S.T. Geometry <sup>1</sup>	FSA	401	B.E.S.T.

<sup>1</sup> Earning a passing score on the Geometry EOC is not required for graduation but may be used to earn a Scholar diploma designation or as a comparative score for the Algebra 1 EOC graduation requirement.

### Statewide Assessment Retake Opportunities

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](#), F.A.C. Tables 3 and 4 show the concordant and comparative scores students may use to satisfy assessment graduation requirements.

**Table 3: Grade 10 ELA Concordant Scores<sup>1</sup>**

Available for students who entered grade 9 in 2020–21 and beyond:	
SAT EBRW/RW <sup>2</sup>	480
ACT English and Reading subtests (averaged) <sup>3</sup>	18
CLT Verbal Reasoning and Grammar/Writing sections sum <sup>4</sup>	36
Available for students who entered grade 9 between the 2010–11 and 2019–20 school years <sup>5</sup> :	
SAT EBRW/RW <sup>2</sup>	430
SAT Reading Subtest <sup>6</sup>	24
ACT Reading	19
ACT English and Reading subtests (averaged) <sup>3</sup>	18

- <sup>1</sup> 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 2020–21 and beyond) until the State Board of Education adopts concordant scores aligned to the Grade 10 FAST ELA Reading Assessment.
- <sup>2</sup> The combined score for the EBRW must come from the same administration of the Reading and Writing subtests. EBRW was updated to RW with the transition to digital SAT.
- <sup>3</sup> 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.
- <sup>4</sup> The scores from the Verbal Reasoning and Grammar/Writing subject tests that are used to calculate the sum are not required to come from the same test administration.
- <sup>5</sup> Any student who graduated in the 2022–23 school year, regardless of when they entered grade 9, was eligible to use these scores for graduation. Please see Rule 6A-1.09422(8)(a)2., F.A.C.
- <sup>6</sup> Administered March 2016 through December 2023.

**Table 4: Algebra 1 EOC Comparative Scores<sup>1</sup>**

Available for students who entered grade 9 in 2020–21 and beyond:	
PSAT/NMSQT Math	430
SAT Math	420
ACT Math	16
CLT Quantitative Reasoning section	11
Geometry EOC	Level 3
Available for students who entered grade 9 between the 2011–12 and 2019–20 school years <sup>2</sup> :	
PERT Mathematics	114
PSAT/NMSQT Math	430
SAT Math	420
ACT Math	16
Geometry EOC <sup>3</sup>	Level 3
Available for students who entered grade 9 between the 2011–12 and 2018–19 school years:	
PERT Mathematics	97

- <sup>1</sup> Students whose graduation requirement is the B.E.S.T. Algebra 1 EOC Assessment may use comparative scores aligned to the FSA Algebra 1 Assessment (those listed for all students who entered grade 9 between 2011–12 and 2018–19 and between 2011–12 and 2019–20) until the State Board of Education adopts concordant scores aligned to the B.E.S.T. Algebra 1 EOC Assessment.
- <sup>2</sup> Any student who graduated in the 2022–23 school year, regardless of when they entered grade 9, was eligible to use these scores for graduation. Please see Rule 6A-1.09422(8)(b)2., F.A.C.
- <sup>3</sup> Students eligible for the alternate passing score of 401 on B.E.S.T. Geometry may use it as a comparative score for graduation. 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(7), F.A.C., were eligible to 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.

## Other Graduation Options

### 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 EOC assessments shown in Table 6.

**Table 6: Passing Scores Required for a Scholar Diploma Designation**

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

<sup>1</sup> 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.

- The passing score for the B.E.S.T. Geometry EOC Assessment was adopted in SBE rule in October 2023. For students who took the B.E.S.T. Geometry EOC Assessment prior to the adoption of the new passing scores, the alternate passing score is 401.
- 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 participated in the B.E.S.T. Geometry EOC prior to the adoption of the B.E.S.T. passing scores may use the provisional score (499) or alternate passing score on the new scale (401).
- Students who are eligible for these alternate passing scores may also use them 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](#).

### Alternate Pathways for ESOL Students

During the 2021 Legislative Session, s. [1003.433\(3\)\(b\)](#), F.S., was amended to require that, beginning with the 2022–23 school year, students who have been enrolled in an English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) program for less than two school years and have met all requirements for the standard high school diploma except for passage of the grade 10 ELA assessment requirement, may meet the grade 10 ELA assessment graduation requirement by "satisfactorily demonstrating grade-level expectations on formative assessments, in accordance with state board rule." Details are provided in [Rule 6A-1.09422, F.A.C.](#)

For more information on alternate pathways for ESOL students, please contact the Bureau of Student Achievement through Language Acquisition at [SALA@fldoe.org](mailto:SALA@fldoe.org).

### 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**.

### **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.

### **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.

## **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.
  - 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 requirements may meet them by earning an alternate passing score (see Table 2) on the current graduation tests (FAST/B.E.S.T.), by taking the FSA Retakes (last administration was Spring 2024), or by earning a concordant or comparative score as described in Tables 3, 4, and 7, depending on student eligibility.

**Table 7: Concordant Scores for Students Entering Grade 9 from 2000–01 to 2009–10**

FCAT or FCAT 2.0 Reading	
<b>Available for students who entered grade 9 in 2006–07 or earlier:</b>	
SAT Critical Reading (administered prior to March 2016)	410
SAT EBRW/RW (administered after March 2016)	410
SAT Reading Subtest (administered March 2016 through December 2023)	22
ACT Reading	15
<b>Available for students who entered grade 9 in 2007–08, 2008–09, or 2009–10:</b>	
SAT Critical Reading (administered prior to March 2016)	420
SAT EBRW/RW (administered after March 2016)	420
SAT Reading Subtest (administered March 2016 through December 2023)	23
ACT Reading	18
FCAT Mathematics	
SAT Mathematics	340 <sup>1</sup>
ACT Mathematics	15

<sup>1</sup>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–March 2016.

**Table 8: FAST/B.E.S.T. Alternate Passing Scores for Students Entering Grade 9 from 2000–01 to 2009–10**

Assessment	Graduation/Assessment Requirement	Alternate Passing Score	Score Scale
<b>FAST Grade 10 ELA Reading</b>	FCAT/FCAT 2.0	245	B.E.S.T.
<b>B.E.S.T. Algebra 1</b>	FCAT Mathematics/FCAT 2.0	390	B.E.S.T.
<b>B.E.S.T. Geometry</b>	FCAT 2.0	394	B.E.S.T.

## Helpful Resources

- For a full schedule of all statewide assessments, see the [2024–2025 Statewide Assessment Schedule](#).
- 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 to provide valuable resources to students, parents/guardians, and educators.
- [CPALMS.org](#) is Florida’s official source for standards information and course descriptions and includes helpful resources for educators and students.

### Change Log

Location	Change	Date
Throughout Document	Removed references to FSA assessments as those were sunsetted in Spring 2024.	August 2024
Alternate Passing Scores	Clarified that student participation before the adoption of the B.E.S.T. scores must be for the applicable assessment (i.e., must have participated in <u>Algebra 1 EOC</u> prior to Winter 2023 to qualify for the <u>Algebra APS</u> ).	August 2024