

## DIVISION OF LEARNING



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## Florida Assessment of Student Thinking

*Parent Guide for the Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST)  
for English Language Arts and Mathematics aligned to the B.E.S.T.  
(Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking) standards*

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Beginning with the 2022–23 school year, Florida’s statewide, standardized assessments in Reading, Writing, and Mathematics will be aligned with the *Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking* (B.E.S.T.). *Florida Assessment of Student Thinking* (FAST) will be administered three times per year in grades VPK through grade 10 English Language Arts and VPK through grade 8 Mathematics. These assessments replace the Florida Standards Assessments (FSA) and are intended to measure student progress in learning B.E.S.T. standards as well as evaluate final student mastery of on-grade level B.E.S.T. standards at the end of the school year.

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that your student will participate in FAST assessments this school year. Please contact your student’s school for information on specific test dates, or visit your school’s website and locate the assessment calendar. Your student’s results from the first (PM1) and the second (PM2) FAST assessment will inform you and your student’s teacher on how well your student is learning on-grade level reading and math standards. Results from the third (PM3) FAST assessment is considered a summative assessment used for accountability purposes such as student promotion into the next grade level, high school graduation, and school grades. Your student’s test results will be available by logging into FOCUS and accessing the *Family Portal*. For more information on the *Family Portal*, including directions on how to access the portal, please contact your student’s school.

It is important to note that FAST assessments have not replaced *Florida’s Statewide End-of-Course (EOC) Assessments*. The Algebra 1 and Geometry EOC assessments that measure student achievement of the B.E.S.T. standards as well as the Civics, Biology, and U.S. History EOC assessments will continue to be administered and students are required to participate in these assessments when enrolled in the corresponding course. In addition, the grades 5 and 8 statewide, standardized science assessments will continue to be administered this school year. For information on these assessments, as well as assessments required for ELL students (*Access for ELLs*) and the *Florida Standards Alternate Assessments* (FSAA) please contact your student’s school or visit the Florida Statewide Assessments Portal at <https://flfast.org/index.html>.

All Florida students participate in the state’s assessment and accountability system. Thank you for supporting your student and encouraging him or her to do his or her best during these test administrations.

Sincerely,

*Cheryl LaPorta Edwards*

Cheryl LaPorta Edwards, Ed.S.  
Assistant Superintendent for Learning



# Florida Assessment of Student Thinking

Parent Guide for the Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST) for English Language Arts and Mathematics aligned to the B.E.S.T. (Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking) standards

## PREPARING YOUR STUDENT FOR FAST ASSESSMENTS

Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST) will be administered three times per year in grades VPK through grade 10 English Language Arts and VPK through grade 8 Mathematics. These assessments replace the Florida Standards Assessments (FSA) and are intended to measure student progress in learning B.E.S.T. standards as well as evaluate final student mastery of on-grade level B.E.S.T. standards at the end of the school year.



Preparing your child for success begins in Kindergarten and continues as your child moves up through high school graduation. Together, we will ensure that ALL students reach their greatest potential.

### LEARN

about the FAST Assessments and why they matter for your child.

<https://flfast.org/families.html>

### TALK

with your child's teachers about what he/she will be learning in the classroom and how assessments are important to student success.

### LOCATE

resources to prepare your child for state assessments such as interacting with the online testing platform or reviewing sample test materials at home.

<https://flfast.org/families.html>

### UNDERSTAND

how state assessments affect your child's ability to promote to the next grade level and graduate high school.

<https://www.fldoe.org/accountability/assessments/>

## TEST DATES

\*Dates for the three windows during the 2022–2023 school year:

- PM1: August 15–September 30, 2022 (K–2: August 8)
- PM2: December 5, 2022–January 27, 2023
- PM3: May 1–June 2, 2023

\*Please contact your student's school for specific test administration dates for each grade level and subject area!

## Grades 3-10 ADMINISTRATION

- Each test will be administered in one session. Students will take only one subject test in a day.
- PM1 and PM2 informs instruction and measures student learning progress in learning B.E.S.T. Standards.
- PM3 evaluates student mastery of on-grade level standards and is used for accountability purposes (student promotion, high school graduation, school grades)
- Tests are taken on a computer and are "computer-adaptive."
- Each test attempt will present 35-40 items that will cover the entire test "blueprint."

Grades/Subject	Session Length
Grades 3-10 ELA	60 to 90 minutes
Grades 3-5 Math	50 to 80 minutes
Grades 6-8 Math	70 to 100 minutes

### How to Access the Family Portal Charlotte County Public Schools

The new Family Portal provides a central location for your student's assessment results.

- The Family Portal can be used to
- access your student's results for the following state assessments: ELA & Math Assessments, Algebra 1, Geometry, Biology 1, Civics, and U.S. History
  - print score reports.

#### How can I access the Family Portal?

- By clicking on the FOCUS Parent Portal landing page for each student you will find a direct link to the Florida Statewide Assessment Family Portal.

#### What information do I need to log in to the Family Portal?

- A username and password to your parent FOCUS account.

#### What information can I find on the Family Portal?

- Your child's results from the state test administration regardless of the present school of enrollment. Note: If new to our district from another Florida district, these reports will be available after a few months.
- Your student's Individual Score Reports with interpretative guides.
- Glossary
- FAQs
- Performance Levels

#### How do I get the FOCUS Parent Account?

FOCUS Parent Account creation can be found at <https://focus.charlottecschools.net/focus/act/>

Review your child's test results by logging into FOCUS and accessing the Family Portal!

Contact your child's school for a copy of the Family Portal flyer or Click [HERE!](#)

## VPK-2 ADMINISTRATION

- Each test will be administered in one session. Students will take only one subject test in a day.
- FAST VPK-2 assessments are Renaissance's Star Early Literacy, Star Reading, and Star Mathematics.
- Tests are taken on a computer and are "computer-adaptive" (headphones required).
- VPK tests are aligned to the Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards; K-2 tests are aligned to B.E.S.T. Standards.