



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION
fldoe.org

**Understanding the
Florida Standards
Alternate Assessment
(FSAA) and
Your Child's Scores**

**Information Brochure
for Parents**

2016

Languages included:

English

Spanish (Español)

Haitian Creole (Kreyòl ayisyen)

How does the Florida Standards Alternate Assessment impact my child?

The Florida Standards Alternate Assessment (FSAA) is designed to provide an option for participation in the state's accountability system in a way that is both meaningful and academically challenging for every student with a significant cognitive disability. Your child's involvement in the assessment can help inform and enhance classroom instruction by providing information on your child's areas of strength and/or areas for improvement. Florida has a standards-driven system for all students. The Florida Standards (Mathematics and English Language Arts) and the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards (Science), along with the corresponding Access Points, drive the curriculum, instructional strategies, and assessment.

What are Access Points?

The FSAA is fully aligned to Florida alternate achievement standards, otherwise known as Access Points. Access Points reflect the key concepts of the Florida Standards and the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards at reduced levels of complexity. They ensure access to the essence or core intent of the standards that apply to all students in the same grade. For more information about the Access Points, visit the Curriculum Planning and Learning Management System (CPALMS) Web site at <http://www.cpalms.org>.

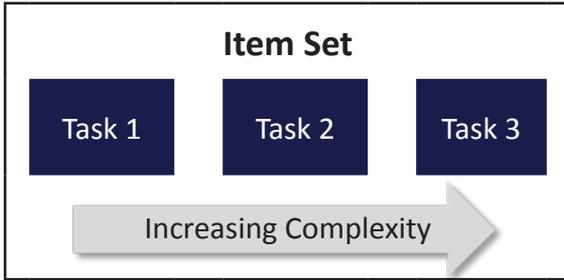
What Academic Areas are assessed?

Access Points in the following academic areas are assessed at the grade levels indicated.

Grade Level	ELA	Mathematics	Science	Algebra 1 EOC Assessment	Geometry EOC Assessment	Biology EOC Assessment
3	X	X				
4	X	X				
5	X	X	X			
6	X	X				
7	X	X				
8	X	X	X			
9	X					
10	X					
High School				X	X	X

What are the Levels of Complexity?

FSAA items are designed to be administered as Item Sets. Each Item Set includes three tasks that address the Access Point at increasing levels of complexity. All students begin an item set at the Task 1 level and continue to work through each level of complexity until they answer a question incorrectly or complete the item set through the Task 3 level.



- The **Task 1** level of complexity focuses on skills at a beginning academic awareness level, such as recognizing a letter, number, or parts of a whole.
- The **Task 2** level of complexity focuses on skills that require identifying or performing basic academic skills, such as reading words or solving simple math problems.
- The **Task 3** level of complexity focuses on skills that require organizing, comparing, and analyzing, such as summarizing the main idea of a story or solving more complex math problems.

What is the FSAA and how is it administered?

- The FSAA is a performance-based assessment. It is designed for students with significant cognitive disabilities for whom participation in the general statewide assessment is inappropriate, even with accommodations.
- The FSAA is administered to each student individually by the student's special education teacher, a certified teacher, or other licensed professional who has worked extensively with the student and is trained in the assessment procedures.
- Students typically select an answer to a question from three response options represented by pictures, text, numbers, and/or symbols in a Response Booklet.
- At the Task 1 level of complexity only, a process called "scaffolding" occurs if a student is unable to respond correctly to the initial presentation. The number of response options is then reduced from three to two, and the task is readministered to the student.

How will my child's score be reported?

For each academic area, your child will be provided a total of three scores. The three scores will report how your child performed at each level of complexity (Task 1 level, Task 2 level, and Task 3 level) within the 10 item sets that contributed to your child's score. The provided scores will reflect the percentage of tasks your child scored correctly out of the **total number of tasks your child attempted**. Because of the adaptive design of the assessment, where the advancement to the next task is dependent on whether your child responded correctly to the previous task, the total attempted information may vary across task levels.

MATHEMATICS	
Complexity Level	Student Accuracy
TASK 1 Level	7 of 10 70%
TASK 2 Level	2 of 7 29%
TASK 3 Level	1 of 2 50%

For example, if a student is administered 8 tasks at the Task 3 level and scores correctly on 4, the resulting score at Task 3 would be 4 out of 8, or 50%.

Not Applicable (NA) will be reflected in the chart if no tasks were administered to your child at the Task 2 or Task 3 levels within a specific content area.

How will the assessment results be used?

The FSAA is only one measure of your child's performance and should be viewed in the context of your child's local programs and other measures. Your child's results can be used to:

- identify learning gains,
- assist the IEP team in developing annual goals and objectives,
- inform instructional planning, and
- monitor progress from year to year.

How can I get more information?

If you have not received your child's Student Report or would like more information about the FSAA, contact your child's teacher, District Coordinator, or Alternate Assessment Coordinator.

Copies of this brochure can be downloaded from the FLDOE Web site at <http://fldoe.org/accountability/assessments/k-12-student-assessment/fl-alternate-assessment.stml>.



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