



# Test Development Center

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Florida Standards Assessments English Language Arts  
Updates

October 7–9, 2015

## **FSA ELA Highlights**

**2015 Spring to Fall**

- Achievement Level Descriptions Meeting—Late April
- Field Test Rangefinding Meetings—May (3 weeks)
- Field Test Handscoring—June/July
- Rubric Validation Meeting—June 9 and 11
- 2016 Test Construction—July/August
- Standard Setting Meeting—August 31–September 4
- Fall Rangefinding Meetings—September/October
- ONGOING FSA ELA Reading Development
- ONGOING FSA ELA Writing Scoring Sampler Development
- ONGOING FSA ELA Practice Test Development

## Achievement Level Descriptions Panel

- April 28–May 1, 2015
- Four-day workshop
- Forty-two panelists
- Described achievement levels for content standards by grade and subject
- Plan to release the Achievement Level Descriptions at some point—to be determined

## Standard Setting Educator Panel

- August 31–September 4, 2015
- Five-day standard-setting workshop
- Four rounds of standard setting
- About 300 panelists
- Seventeen rooms setting standards concurrently
  - Recommending cut scores based primarily on content, though impact and benchmark data is reviewed after the first two rounds of judgments

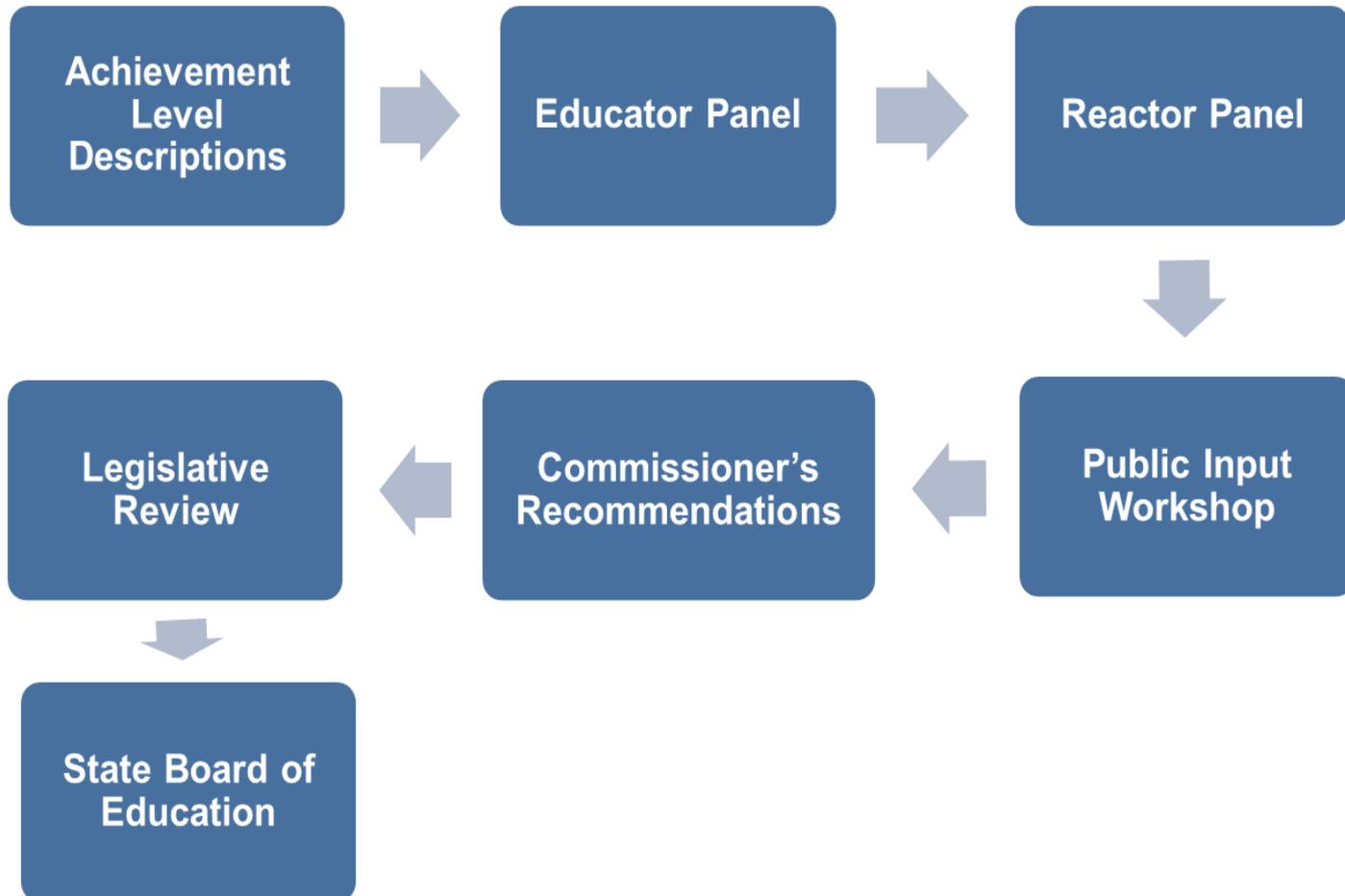
# Standard Setting Reactor Panel

- September 10–11, 2015
- Two-day meeting composed of
  - community/education organization leaders
  - state university leaders
  - business leaders
  - school board members
  - superintendents
- Review educator panel recommended cut scores and impact data
- Two rounds of judgment
- About 20 panelists

## Standard Setting—Continued

- Rule Development Workshops
  - Broward County—September 15
  - Orange County—September 16
  - Leon County (Webcast)—September 17
- Rule workshop information and public feedback form available on the FDOE website at <http://www.fldoe.org/accountability/assessments/k-12-student-assessment/stard-setting.stml>

# Standard Setting: A Multistage Process



# Fall/Winter 2015 ELA Assessments

- FSA ELA Retake, FCAT 2.0 Reading Retake, October 12–23 (30th for FSA ELA Reading Retake)
- ALL fall tests are CBT with PBT accommodations.

## 2015–16 Schedule

- Fall FSA **ELA Reading Retake** window extended to **October 30, 2015**
- Fall FSA **ELA Writing Retake** must be completed by **October 23, 2015**
- ELA Writing should be administered before ELA Reading at the student level.
- Session 1 of ELA Reading **MUST** be completed before Session 2.
- Students **MUST** complete ELA Reading sessions over two days.

## 2015–16 Schedule

- FSA ELA Retake Sessions
  - ELA Writing—One 120-minute session
  - ELA Reading—Two 90-minute sessions (over two days)
  - Students may work up to the length of half of a typical school day, if needed, for all ELA Retake sessions.
- Students are required to participate in all three sessions to receive an ELA Retake score (previous component scores are not used).

## 2015–16 Schedule

- Grades 4–7 FSA ELA Writing will be administered **on paper.**
- Grades 8–10 FSA ELA Writing will be administered **on computer.**
- ELA Writing Sessions 120 minutes (no longer 90 + 30)
- Writing Makeup Windows offered (same timeframes as last year)
  - One week to be included in regular reporting
  - One week at the end of the Reading window

## General Reminders

- For all multiple-session tests, sessions **MUST** be completed in order.
- Two-session tests **MUST** be completed over two days.
- Multiple grade-level/subject makeup tests may be administered in the same room as long as appropriate administration scripts are read and correct materials are distributed.
- Test administrators must allow the correct amount of time for each test session.

## Additional Fall Happenings

- *FSA ELA Test Item Specifications*—Slight revisions to correct typos and other minor details
- *ELA Test Design Summary and Blueprint*—Remove Grade 11, update Writing administration time to 120 minutes, update Technology-Enhanced Item Descriptions for 2015–16
  - **NOTE: Grades 3–10 Reading component MAY include Open-Response items. These items can usually be answered in a sentence or two.**
- FSA ELA Reading Passage and Item Review Meetings—October 19–30; educators review all proposed passages/items for possible FSA use; items are field tested prior to operational use.

## Coming Soon! FSA ELA Writing Scoring Samplers

- LATE FALL (Hopefully, by November 30)
- One annotated sampler per grade
- Grade 4—Opinion; Grade 5—Informative (Info)
- Grade 6—Info; Grade 7—Argumentation (Arg); Grade 8—Info
- Grade 9—Arg; Grade 10—Info
- Examples of student responses that represent various score-point combinations
- Not intended to provide a full spectrum of examples
- Do not necessarily represent highest or lowest examples of score points
- Passage sets are permissioned pieces and will be available via a hyperlink. (Printing is available via the URL.)

## FSA Portal Redesign

- Cleaner design
- Better page organization
- Resources displayed logically
- User-friendly cards and links
- New pages added
- Parent FAQ

# FSA Portal Redesign

New Pages added.

User cards replaced with user-friendly page links.



The screenshot shows the redesigned FSA Portal website. At the top is a navigation bar with links: Home, Students & Families, Test Administration, Technology Resources, About the FSAs, and Email Alerts: Register | Settings. Below the navigation bar is the Florida Standards Assessments logo and a decorative image of a palm frond. The main content area is divided into several sections:

- Left Sidebar:** A vertical stack of four user cards: "Students & Families" (with a graduation cap icon), "Test Administration" (with a document and checkmark icon), "Technology Resources" (with a computer monitor icon), and "About the FSAs" (with an information icon).
- Center Content:** A "Welcome to the FSA Portal" section with a sub-header. Below the sub-header is a paragraph of text: "This portal is your source for information about the Florida Standards Assessments. Florida's K-12 assessment system measures students' achievement of Florida's education standards, which were developed and implemented to ensure that all students graduate from high school ready for success in college, career, and life. Assessment supports instruction and student learning, and test results help Florida's educational leadership and stakeholders determine whether the goals of the education system are being met." Below this is another paragraph: "For information about FCAT 2.0 or NGSS EOC Assessments, please visit <http://www.fldoe.org/accountability/assessments/k-12-student-assessment>." At the bottom of this section is a link: "For more information about Florida standards, course descriptions, and standard resources, please visit [www.cpalms.org](http://www.cpalms.org)."
- Right Sidebar:** A vertical stack of six buttons: "Administer the FSA" (with a person icon), "Secure Browser" (with a shield icon), "FSA Resources" (with a book icon), "Training Tests" (with a gear icon), "Online Reporting System (ORS)" (with a pie chart icon), and "TIDE" (with a group of people icon). Below these is a "Visit FDOE" button (with the FDOE logo icon).
- Bottom Section:** A "FDOE on Twitter" section with a "Follow" button and a list of tweets. The first tweet is from Jeffrey S. Solochek (@JeffSolochek) saying "Now all Floridians can share my confidence in the assessment." The second tweet is from Meghin Delaney (@MeghinDelaney) saying "Valid results are 'welcome news,' Pam Stewart, of @EducationFL says".

At the bottom of the page is a dark blue footer bar with links: Site Index | About this Site | Contact Us.

Additional page links added.

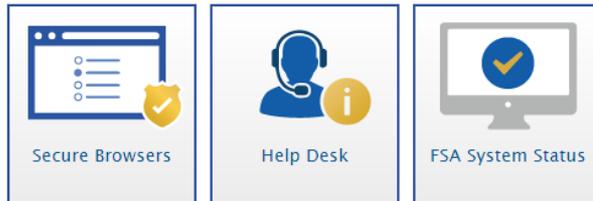
# FSA Portal Redesign



FSA Portal > Technology Resources

## Technology Resources

This page provides access to general information about the Florida Standards Assessments (FSA) and links to other FSA websites and resources.



### Helpful Resources

- [2015-2016 System Requirements for Online Testing](#) [PDF]
- [Common Online Testing Message IDs and Descriptions](#) [PDF]
- [System Requirements for Online Testing](#) [PDF]
- [FSA Infrastructure Trial Guide](#) [PDF]
- [FSA Technical Specifications Manual](#) [PDF]

New page organizes technology-specific resources.

## FALL New FSA ELA CBT Practice Tests

- FSA PRACTICE TESTS (PTs) available for each grade; will replace the Training Tests (Grade 10 will be updated again soon.)
- **Online** FSA Reading PTs divided into two sessions to allow Test Administrators practice with logging students in and out of sessions
  - **SESSION LENGTH AND CONTENT ARE NOT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE OPERATIONAL ASSESSMENTS! (PT sessions divided by genre)**
- CBT students required to participate in a practice-test session prior to testing
- Training/Practice Tests available on the FSA Portal

## More FSA ELA Writing Practice Tests

- Grade 4—Informative (Info)
- Grade 5—Opinion
- Grade 6—Info
- Grade 7—Argumentation (Arg); Current “Goofs and Great Inventions” passage set/prompt
- Grade 8—Info
- Grade 9—Arg
- Grade 10—Info; Current “Ready-Made Clothing” passage set slightly augmented/revise

(Grades 4 and 5 FSA ELA Writing Scoring Samplers may be interchanged for use with the FSA ELA Practice Tests.)

## PBT Practice Tests

- Students who will take an **FSA Reading or Mathematics paper-based test ARE NOW REQUIRED** to participate in a PBT Practice Test to familiarize themselves with the various item types they may encounter on the assessments.
  - Grade 3 FSA Reading
  - Grade 3–4 Mathematics
  - Grades 5–10 Reading PBT Accommodations
  - Grades 4–8 Mathematics PBT Accommodations
- FSA PBT Practice Tests are/will be available on the FSA Portal in **November**.

# Accommodations (Included in Practice Tests)

- For students with IEP or 504 plan that specifies this accommodation, Text-to-Speech (TTS) functionality will be available for all computer-based FSA ELA Reading and Writing components.
  - Passages/text sets are not read to students.
  - Items and options are read to students.
  - Prompt wording is read to students.
- American Sign Language (ASL) videos provided for listening items on the ELA Reading tests (CBT **and PBT**) for students who require them (SPRING 2016)
- Students with PBT accommodations have access to the **listening items** via a secure interface.

## Spring 2016—FSA ELA

- FSA ELA Writing
  - February 29–March 11
  - Grades 4–7 (PBT)
  - Grades 8–10 & Retake (CBT)
- FSA ELA Reading
  - Grade 3 (PBT) and Retake (CBT)—  
March 28–April 8
  - Grades 4–10 (CBT)—April 11–May 6

## Spring 2016—NGSSS

- Retakes
  - FCAT 2.0 Reading, Algebra 1 (CBT)—March 28–April 8
- Please note, end dates for CBT windows are for CBT administrations only; PBT accommodations have earlier end dates listed on the schedule.

## Some “Nitty-Gritty” Details about FSA ELA

### READING Reminders to Students:

- Read passages and listen to audio clips  carefully;
- Follow directions;
- Answer **BOTH** parts of two-part items;
- Choose the **specified** number of options;
- Think critically.

## FSA Writing Reminders to Students

- Read prompt first!
- Read the passage set carefully.
- Decide what you think about the passage set; take notes.
- Think about the purpose, audience, task.
- **Reread** the prompt.
- PLAN the response;
- DRAFT; reread; revise/edit.

## Grades 4–5

# Use of and References to Sources

- Simple but clear use of sources, facts, and details
- Title of passage/article
- Paragraph number
- Author
- Direct quotations

## Writing Reminders

- Grades 6–10—CITE evidence! (Though full citation is not required for Grades 4 and 5, some students are already doing this!)
- Citations can get “clunky” when extremely long and repetitive
  - In Source 1, Paragraph 4, author Jackson Revere says . . .
  - In Source 2, Paragraph 10, author Jason Kennedy says . . .
  - In Source 3, Paragraph 15, author Joel Lincoln says . . .
- Author’s name in parentheses with source number or page number seems less cumbersome, e.g., (Revere, Source 1) OR (Kennedy, 12).

## Citing Evidence—Grades 6–10

Informal citations are acceptable.

- Title of article, passage, source number
- Author's name
- Paragraph number
- Direct quotation with tag line to attribute the source material

Reminder to students: A copied quotation or a reference to a person or entity within the text without attribution to the actual source does not count as a citation.

## Writing Reminders

- Integration of insight, evidence, and elaboration key elements in text-based writing
- Ineffective development = ALL summary with little or no elaboration to connect to the controlling idea
- “What it says; what it means; why it matters” strategy *may* improve the response IF
  - actual words aren’t used repeatedly throughout the essay; or
  - “what it means” is not just a translation that adds nothing.
- Relevant, insightful anecdotes often strengthen the response, while generic, unimportant “one time when” anecdotes may weaken the development.

## Writing Reminders

- “Plop and drop” evidence is not effective.
- Discernment = choosing evidence that supports the controlling idea/main point
- When the passage set includes a number, statistic, or list, many students seem **COMPELLED** to use as evidence—even when it doesn’t connect to his/her controlling idea.
- Use of overblown expressions or trivial rhetorical questions weakens the tone, e.g., “Wow! What do you think about XYZ?” or “That’s just the pan to my cake!”

## Moving on to 2016 Spring/Summer

- FSA ELA Writing Handscoring—TDC Content team onsite to monitor
- Scores to be reported by week of June 8
- FSA FT ELA Rubric Validation Meeting
  - Machine-scored constructed response items to be reviewed; process similar to rangefinding
  - Pre-existing rubric and scores on a sample of student responses reviewed by FL educators
  - Rubrics/scores confirmed or revised rubrics and scores established to ensure automated scoring follows criteria for operational scoring of item if ever placed on the FSA ELA

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I may not have answers, but  
feel free to ask.



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