

# Florida Alternate Assessment (FAA)

## Grades/Students

Reading and Mathematics: All eligible students in grades 3-10.

Science: All eligible students in grades 5, 8, and 11.

Writing: All eligible students in grades 4, 8, and 10.

## Date

Administered in January and February of each school year.

## Description

The Florida Alternate Assessment is a standards-based achievement test designed specifically for students with significant cognitive disabilities. The Florida Alternate Assessment was developed to provide to enable participation of all students in the state's accountability system, including those for whom participation in the general statewide assessment (the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test [FCAT]) is not appropriate, even with accommodations. The alternate assessment design for Florida is based on the *Sunshine State Standards Access Points* for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities in Language Arts (Reading and Writing), Mathematics, and Science.

It is expected that only students with the most significant cognitive disabilities who are eligible under IDEA will participate in the Florida Alternate Assessment.

The Florida Alternate Assessment is administered one-on-one by the student's special education teacher. If this is not possible, the assessment administrator must be a certified teacher or other licensed professional who has worked extensively with the student, and is trained in the assessment procedures.

The Florida Alternate Assessment will be administered to all students meeting the alternate assessment criteria. Each assessment is composed of 20 items, 16 core items and 4 embedded field-test items, per form (A or B). There are three levels of complexity per item. The field-test items are **not** included in the students' raw scores.

## Results

Student, school, district, and state results are reported in May. Performance scores ranging from 0 to 144, in grades 3-10 in Reading and Math, and grades 5, 8, and 11 in Science, and grades 4, 8, and 10 in Writing are reported. Proficiency levels are reported as EMERGENT, ACHIEVED or COMMENDED, with ACHIEVED and COMMENDED being considered "proficient".

## Basis of Test

State mandate.

## Website

<http://www.fldoe.org/asp/altassessment.asp>

## Local Contact

Exceptional Student Education

305-995-7580

Student Assessment and Educational Testing

305-995-7520