

2016-2017 School Year Information

District and School Leader Supports

Statutory Revisions as a Result of House Bill 7029

House Bill 7029, codified as [Chapter 2016-237, Laws of Florida](#), revises a number of Florida Statutes (F.S.) related to public schools. A [memorandum](#) to school district superintendents and finance officers providing summary information and available implementation technical assistance was released on June 17, 2016.

Best Practices for Inclusive Education

Best Practices for Inclusive Education (BPIE) is a district-level self-assessment tool and process to identify and prioritize areas of need for inclusive practices that enable all students with disabilities to achieve their highest potential. BPIE is based on work by experts in the field, best practice literature and peer-reviewed research. When implemented with fidelity, BPIE leads to the development of district improvement goals that increase effective inclusive practices in all schools.

[Section 1003.57\(1\)\(f\), F.S.](#), requires each district and school to complete a BPIE assessment every three years. The Florida Inclusion Network provides support for the implementation of BPIE and related improvement goals in all Florida districts. More information can be found on the [Florida Inclusion Network](#) website.

K-20 Career and Education Planning System

The Florida career and education planning system, MyCareerShines, is available for the 2016-2017 school year. MyCareerShines will continue to help districts meet the requirements of [s. 1003.4156, F.S.](#), which mandates that students complete a course in career and education planning in the middle grades. Students can use the system to explore their interests in associated careers, review educational requirements for various careers, build a career and education plan and search financial aid opportunities.

MyCareerShines offers a tool for secondary students, Navigator, and a separate tool for postsecondary and adult education students, Journey.

Several enhancements to MyCareerShines are planned for the 2016-2017 school year including:

- Spanish versions
- Templates for personalized education planning
- A parent portal
- Galaxy, an online education and career planning tool for elementary school students

Teachers, school counselors and administrators can get the latest news and access helpful resources, such as marketing material for FloridaShines and MyCareerShines, on the [Partner Portal](#). The Florida Department of Education (FDOE) is working in partnership with FloridaShines and the University of West Florida to ensure Florida students receive the most current resources in career and education planning. Please visit www.mycareershines.org for more information.

Professional Practices Services

In March 2016, the State Board of Education approved significant revisions to the Principles of Professional Conduct and repealed the Code of Ethics. As of March 23, 2016, [Rule 6A-10.081, Florida Administrative Code \(F.A.C.\)](#), defines both ethical principles and disciplinary principles. Districts should review and update policies that referenced the former rule(s).

Visit www.myfloridateacher.com for information on statutory requirements related to investigating and reporting educator misconduct. This website includes information on an educator's obligation to report abuse and educator misconduct, links to the required employment screening tools and the form for public school districts, charter schools, or private schools that accept scholarship funds to report educator misconduct to FDOE. Site-level administrators are encouraged to familiarize themselves with this website and the investigative process as they may have communication with the Office of Professional Practices during the school year.

At www.myfloridateacher.com, on the Search Disciplinary Actions page, is a publicly accessible web search for disciplinary actions against a Florida educator's state-issued certificate. Florida law requires this website be searched prior to hiring instructional personnel or school administrators; however, districts should consider using this tool to vet all potential employees. Florida law prohibits a person from teaching or other employment requiring direct student contact in any Florida public school if the person's certificate is suspended or revoked.

[Section 1012.315, F.S.](#), provides a list of offenses for which, if convicted, a person is ineligible for educator certification, and instructional personnel and school administrators as defined in [s. 1012.01, F.S.](#), are ineligible for employment in a district school system, charter school or private school that accepts scholarship funds.

Districts that use third-party providers for their substitutes and virtual education providers must implement procedures to verify these persons are not prohibited from employment due to disqualification and/or suspension or revocation of a Florida educator certificate. The www.myfloridateacher.com website also provides a link to the hearings of the Education Practices Commission. Check this website regularly to view upcoming agendas.

Dual Enrollment

- The 2016-2017 [Dual Enrollment Course—High School Subject Area Equivalency List](#) has no changes from the 2015-2016 list.
- The [Dual Enrollment Frequently Asked Questions](#) (FAQ) document has been updated.
- House Bill 837 ([Chapter 2016-137, Laws of Florida](#)) made several important revisions to the establishment and content of dual enrollment articulation agreements.
 - All 2016-2017 dual enrollment articulation agreements must include a description of services and resources that are available to students with disabilities.
 - Articulation agreements between public postsecondary institutions and districts must still be submitted to FDOE by August 1. An updated agreement template is located at www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/5421/urlt/0078396-dualanrollmentarticulationagreement.pdf.
 - If a district has entered into a dual enrollment articulation agreement with a private postsecondary institution eligible to participate in dual enrollment pursuant to [s. 1011.62\(1\)\(i\), F.S.](#), that agreement must be submitted to FDOE by August 1 of each year.
 - Pursuant to [s. 1007.271\(22\), F.S.](#), FDOE has developed an electronic submission system for all articulation agreements developed under [s. 1007.271\(21\), F.S.](#) The submission website is being updated and will be available at www.fldoe.org/policy/articulation.

- The 2015-2016 Dual Enrollment Articulation Agreements may be viewed at www.fldoe.org/policy/articulation/1516dual-enrollment-agreements.stml.

Career and Professional Education (CAPE) Information

The CAPE Industry Certification Funding List includes the following categories:

- CAPE Industry Certifications – Industry certifications that do not articulate for college credit or do articulate for up to 14 college credits based on a statewide articulation agreement.
- CAPE Acceleration Industry Certifications – Industry certifications that articulate for 15 or more college credits based on a statewide articulation agreement.
- CAPE Digital Tool Certificates – Certificates available to elementary and middle grades students where a student must pass an assessment of digital skills in the following areas: word processing; spreadsheets; sound, motion and color presentations; digital arts; and cyber security to earn the certificate.

CAPE Innovation Courses: These courses combine academic and career performance outcomes with embedded industry certifications and must incorporate at least two third-party assessments, one of which must be associated with an industry certification on the [CAPE Industry Certification Funding List](#).

Currently, the approved courses involve the pairing of an industry certification with an Advanced Placement (AP) course. The approved courses contain the current College Board AP course descriptions and require AP teachers to deliver a series of activities that emphasize applied learning of the AP content while learning new knowledge and skills associated with CAPE industry certifications. Districts are eligible for additional 0.3 full-time equivalent (FTE) membership in the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) for each certification earned. Students enrolled in AP courses cannot generate funding under both sections of the statute.

Course	Academic	Career
AP Microeconomics Innovation (#2102365)	Earn score of “3” or higher on the AP examination	Earn Microsoft Office Specialist for Excel (2013 version)
AP English Language and Composition Innovation (#1001425)	Earn score of “3” or higher on the AP examination	Earn Microsoft Office Specialist for Word (2013 version)
AP Studio Art 2-D Design Portfolio Innovation (#0109355)	Earn score of “3” or higher on the AP examination	Earn Adobe Certified Associate for Adobe Photoshop (Creative Cloud version)
AP Computer Science A Innovation (#0200325)	Earn score of “3” or higher on the AP examination	Earn CIW Javascript Specialist certification

- Teacher bonuses shall be paid for CAPE Industry Certifications, CAPE Acceleration Industry Certifications and CAPE Innovation Courses.
- Elementary and middle grades students will be included in the 2016-2017 FEFP calculation up to a maximum of 0.1 FTE.
- The 2016-2017 General Appropriations Act designated \$4.5 million as performance incentive funds for the attainment of postsecondary industry certifications in district workforce education programs. There are multiple occupational areas in which students can earn industry certifications in order for the district to receive these funds. The legislation also designated that any funds not distributed to districts for industry certifications shall be distributed for adult education programs.

For questions regarding CAPE, contact Kathleen Taylor, bureau chief, at Kathleen.Taylor@fldoe.org.

Career and Technical Education Programmatic Information

The [2016-2017 Career and Technical Education Program Frameworks](#) are available to facilitate instructional planning for this school year.

The Division of Career and Adult Education maintains the eligible industry certifications that are tied to statewide college credit which may be found at <http://www.fldoe.org/academics/career-adult-edu/career-technical-edu-agreements/industry-certification.stml>.

Florida Standards Parent Night Toolkit

The [Florida Standards Parent Night Toolkit](#) is now available at www.flstandards.org. It includes materials to plan a training or series of trainings to help parents understand college and career readiness and the Florida Standards. The toolkit includes planning tools, documents and agendas to help educators and administrators prepare for and execute a successful Florida Standards Parent Night.

Teacher Supports

CPALMS

New resources are added to CPALMS throughout the year so please visit the website regularly. These resources can be accessed on the CPALMS website at www.cpalms.org by clicking on the Resources and PD Programs pages.

Florida Standards Tools and Resources At-A-Glance Series

The [Florida Standards Tools and Resources At-a-Glance Series](#) is now available at www.flstandards.org. These eye-catching, easy-to-understand PDF documents highlight the features, benefits and uses of the tools available through FDOE that educators can use to implement and teach the Florida Standards better within their schools and classrooms.

Tools and resources include:

- Single Sign-On (SSO)
- CPALMS
- Mathematics Formative Assessment System (MFAS)
- English Language Arts Formative Assessment System (ELAFAS)
- Florida Standards Student Tutorials
- Text Complexity and Demand Resources and Activities
- Interim Assessment Item Bank and Test Platform (IBTP)
- Florida Assessments for Instruction in Reading-Florida Standards (FAIR-FS)

FDOE hopes that educators will feel comfortable using these documents and will keep them handy (i.e., on their desks, posted on a wall or in their lesson plan books, etc.) for easy accessibility and frequent use.

Florida Standards Resource Document Now Available Online

During the summer of 2014 and a large portion of the 2014-2015 school year, teachers and administrators statewide participated in one or both of the following FDOE-sponsored Florida Standards professional development trainings:

- The Florida Standards Professional Development Action Projects (PDAP)
- The Florida Standards Tools and Resources Professional Development Training Series

A number of great resources, including PowerPoint slides, videos and other various instructional resources were developed as a result of these trainings. A [crosswalk document](#) was designed to align and connect the resources from both trainings. This document may assist educators in accessing and using these resources in the most effective way to support Florida Standards-based instruction in their classrooms and schools.

New Computer Science Standards

The State Board of Education adopted a computer science body of knowledge to be added to the existing Next Generation Sunshine State Standards for science at its May 20, 2016, meeting. These new standards establish the vision and framework for K-12 computer science content in Florida.

The new standards are available on [CPALMS](#). Districts may submit for approval new course descriptions or existing course description revisions using these standards. Instructions on how to complete this process may be found at www.fldoe.org/policy/articulation/ccd/. Approved courses will be listed in the [Course Code Directory](#) for use by districts as they choose.

Teacher Toolkits

Assistance for teachers is available in the [Teacher Toolkits](#) on the [Bureau of Standards and Instructional Support](#) website; more toolkits will be added this year.

The toolkits include the following content areas:

- 3rd Grade Science
- 5th Grade Science
- Biology 1
- Civics
- Elementary Comprehensive Health Education
- 8th Grade Science
- Algebra 1
- U.S. History
- Physical Education
- Secondary Comprehensive Health Education

Assistance for teachers of mathematics, science and STEM areas is also available on the [Elementary Mathematics Resources](#) website. The resources include the following topics:

- K-5 Standards Progression documents
- Grades 3-5 Suggested Activities and Supplies to Support Mathematics
- Grades 3-5 Fractions
- Grades 3-4 Multiplication and Division
- Grade 5 Fluently Multiply Multi-digit Numbers and Finding Whole Number Quotients

Watch for an English Language Arts grade-level Resource Toolkit coming soon.

Florida's Sexual Health Education Community Outreach Toolkit has been revised and will be ready for posting to the [Office of Healthy Schools](#) website during the fall of 2016.

Art in the Capitol Competition

House Bill 701 creates the Art in the Capitol Competition ([s. 1003.49965, F.S.](#)), a statewide visual arts competition for all students in grades 6-8. The winning selection from each district will be on display at the Capitol during each Florida legislative session. A [memorandum](#) was sent out June 10, 2016, with more information.

The timeline for the 2016-2017 Art in the Capitol Competition is as follows:

- Fall 2016 – Districts will hold the annual Art in the Capitol Competition for all students in grades 6-8.
- January 6, 2017 – The winning selection from each district shall be given to the legislator of the legislative district in which the student resides.
- March 7, 2017 – The start of the regular session is the opening date of exhibit at the Capitol.
- May 5, 2017 – The last day of the regular session is the end of the exhibit at the Capitol. Each legislator will return the winning submission from his/her district to the student after this date.

Updates to the Character Education Requirement

House Bill 1147 updates [s. 1003.42\(2\)\(s\), F.S.](#), to require that “the character-development curriculum for grades 9-12 shall, at a minimum, include instruction on developing leadership skills, interpersonal skills, organization skills, and research skills; creating a résumé; developing and practicing the skills necessary for employment interviews; conflict resolution, workplace ethics, and workplace law; managing stress and expectations; and developing skills that enable students to become more resilient and self-motivated.” The course [Leadership Techniques](#) (#2400310) has been revised so that it meets all the requirements of this new legislation, and districts may use it if they choose. The way this requirement is met is a local decision. For questions regarding this revised requirement, contact Michael DiPierro, social studies education specialist, at Michael.DiPierro@fldoe.org.

Human Trafficking Fact Sheet

Human trafficking involves exploiting a person through force, fraud or coercion for the purpose of forced labor and/or commercial sex. Victims of human trafficking include men, women, boys, girls and transgender individuals. Child human trafficking applies to persons under the age of 18. If the sex trafficking victim is under the age of 18, it is human trafficking regardless of whether force, fraud and/or coercion exist. The following resource has been created to assist districts and schools to increase their anti-trafficking education: [FDOE Human Trafficking Fact Sheet for Florida Schools](#).

New Access Courses

Two new Access Courses have been added to the Course Code Directory (CCD) for the 2016-2017 school year. The courses are titled [Access Physical Science](#) (#7920022) and [Access Algebra 2](#) (#7912095). Access Courses are only for students who have been determined to have a significant cognitive disability. Further information related to these courses can be found in the [2016-2017 CCD](#).

Other resources related to Access Points and Access Courses:

- The Access Project – <http://accesstofls.weebly.com/>
- CPALMS – www.cpalms.org/

Secondary Transition for Students with Disabilities

Information can be found on the [Secondary Transition](#) website. Updated information includes:

- An [online training](#) on graduation requirements, including graduation options only open to students with disabilities
- An updated technical assistance paper on [High School Graduation Options for Students With Disabilities](#) (now includes career and technical course substitution information)
- A 2016 [Memorandum: Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act \(WIOA\) Procedures](#) from Vocational Rehabilitation, Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services and Division of Blind Services
- An updated technical assistance paper on [Waiver of Statewide, Standardized Assessment Results for Students with Disabilities](#)

Mandatory Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting and Training

[Chapter 39, Laws of Florida](#), protects children from abuse and neglect and also provides a central registry to report suspected incidents. [Section 39.201\(1\)\(a\), F.S.](#), states that school teachers and all school personnel are legally obligated to report any suspected abuse and neglect. Any school professional failing to report or preventing others from reporting is guilty of a felony of the third degree and may be prosecuted.

All teachers in grades K-12 are required to participate in continuing education training provided by the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) on identifying and reporting child abuse and neglect pursuant to [s. 1012.98\(12\), F.S.](#) It is important for new and returning teachers to complete the training on DCF's website at www.myflfamilies.com/service-programs/abuse-hotline/training.

The [Child Abuse Prevention Sourcebook for Florida School Personnel](#) is available to provide additional information and resources for school-based personnel.

Support for Instruction of English Language Learners

On May 20, 2016, the State Board of Education approved [Rule 6A-6.0903, F.A.C.](#), which establishes new exit criteria for English Language Learners (ELLs). Based on the ACCESS for ELL 2.0 assessments, students in grades 3-12 obtaining a composite proficiency score of 5.0 with no domain less than 4.0 and a satisfactory score on the Florida Standards Assessment-English Language Arts (FSA-ELA) may be exited from the English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) program. Qualifying SAT and ACT scores may be used in lieu of the FSA-ELA score. K-2 students can also exit with an ACCESS for ELL 2.0 composite score of 5.0, with no domain less than 4.0. No other assessment is necessary. Schools and districts are to use the last day of the school year as the exit date for reporting purposes.

Implementing the English Language Development (ELD) standards into teacher lesson plans can only help improve instruction and ensure Florida's ELLs have equal access to career and college opportunities. FDOE recommends that teachers include the appropriate ELD standard into current lesson plans as part of the learning objectives and then indicate strategies to meet those objectives.

An example of a lesson plan objective for course [M/J Grade 6 Mathematics](#) (#1205010) could look like this:

- MAFS.6.EE.1.1 Write and evaluate numerical expressions involving whole-number exponents
- ELD.K12.ELL.MA.1 English language learners communicate information, ideas and concepts necessary for academic success in the content area of Mathematics
- ESOL Strategies:

- Use manipulatives, bilingual dictionary, peer grouping, extra time*

*A more detailed use of strategies/vocabulary based on an ELL's individual English proficiency levels is recommended to tailor instructional needs.

For questions regarding support for instruction of ELLs, contact Ginger Alberto, program director, at Ginger.Alberto@fldoe.org.

Just Take 20

The [Just Take 20](#) campaign provides K-12 Florida families with practical, easy-to-implement reading activities that establish literacy as a lifelong value. Just Take 20 encourages families to seize everyday teachable moments by using 20 minutes each day to integrate reading into their busy lives. This year, families and educators will be able to access all available resources online at [Just Take 20](#) or at [Just Read, Florida!](#) without having to create a log-in. There will now be two options to choose from: **Just Take 20 for Families** and **Just Take 20 for Educators**. Families will be able to search quickly for activities based on their child's grade level and by topic. Educators will have access to two different toolkits: the **Just Take 20 Toolkit** that will provide schools with everything they need to start a Just Take 20 campaign, and the **REaD Carpet Ready Toolkit** that will provide schools everything they need to host an exciting family literacy event to promote their Just Take 20 campaign. Schools should be encouraged to review the new toolkits and familiarize themselves with the new layout of the website so that they will be able to encourage their families to access these wonderful resources.

Student and Parent Supports

Florida Standards Student Tutorials

New resources and features have been added to www.FloridaStudents.org. The resources and features include:

- Original tutorials and additional vetted resources for U.S. History
- Search buttons at the top and left side to filter resources by subject, grade and type
- Ability to submit feedback for individual resources

Be sure to visit www.FloridaStudents.org regularly as new resources are added throughout the year.

Student Progression

The Academic Advisement Flyers – What Students and Parents Need to Know are available in English, Spanish and Haitian Creole on the [Graduation Requirements](#) website. The English versions are linked below.

- [Students Entering Grade Nine in the 2016-2017 School Year](#)
- [Students Entering Grade Nine in the 2015-2016 School Year](#)
- [Students Entering Grade Nine in the 2014-2015 School Year](#)
- [Students Entering Grade Nine in the 2013-2014 School Year](#)

Career Planning

The Florida career and education planning system, MyCareerShines, is available for the 2016-2017 school year. Students can use the system to explore their interests in associated careers, review educational requirements for various careers, build a career and education plan and search financial aid opportunities.

MyCareerShines offers a tool for secondary students, Navigator, and a separate tool for postsecondary and adult education students, Journey.

Several enhancements to MyCareerShines are planned for the 2016-2017 school year including:

- Spanish versions
- Templates for personalized education planning
- A parent portal
- Galaxy, an online education and career planning tool for elementary school students

FDOE is working in partnership with FloridaShines and the University of West Florida to ensure Florida students receive the most current resources in career and education planning. Please visit www.mycareershines.org for more information.

Credit Acceleration Program

There are two new options:

- A student is allowed to earn high school credit in courses required for high school graduation without the requirement of enrolling in or completing the course through the passage of:
 - An Advanced Placement (AP) examination
 - A College-Level Examination Program (CLEP) examination
- Continuing option:
 - A student may earn high school credit in Algebra 1, Algebra 2, Geometry, U.S. History or Biology 1 if the student passes the statewide, standardized end-of-course (EOC) assessment without the requirement of enrolling in or completing the course.

Please note: the award of high school credit under the Credit Acceleration Program (CAP) for completion of an examination under the AP program or the CLEP is limited to the appropriate courses and credits listed in the K-12 [Course Code Directory](#). While students will also earn college credit upon entrance to a postsecondary institution for passing scores on these examinations, that college credit may not also be applied as additional credit for high school graduation in addition to the secondary credit awarded under the CAP.

The award of college credit for examinations is described in [s. 1007.27, F.S.](#), which states that credit by examination is the program through which secondary and postsecondary students generate postsecondary credit based on the receipt of a specified minimum score on nationally standardized general or subject area examinations. The award of college credit described in the [Articulation Coordinating Committee Credit-by-Examination Equivalencies](#) applies only upon entrance to a postsecondary institution; this award of credit does not also grant high school credit (e.g., students who pass the AP English Language and Composition examination with a score of 4 or 5 will be awarded credit for ENC 1101 and ENC 1102 only upon entrance to a postsecondary institution).

Finally, while the [Dual Enrollment Course—High School Subject Area Equivalency List](#) grants high school credits for completion of college courses, this applies to completion of the courses only. For example, students who complete ENC 1101 and ENC 1102 through dual enrollment will receive 1.0 credit each of high school credit, but this applies only for successful completion of the college courses through dual enrollment, not through an examination.

Online Course Requirement

A student has been able to satisfy the online course requirement for high school graduation by completion of one course via online learning. There are two new options for meeting this requirement:

- Completion of a course in which a student earns a nationally recognized industry certification in information technology or passage of the information technology examination without enrollment in or completion of the course
- Passage of an online content assessment by which the student demonstrates skills and competency in locating information and applying technology for instructional purposes without enrollment in the corresponding course or courses.

For questions regarding graduation requirements, credit acceleration or the online course requirement, contact Helen Lancashire, school counseling consultant, at Helen.Lancashire@fldoe.org.

Florida Seal of Biliteracy Program

Beginning with high school graduates in the 2016-2017 school year, this program is established to provide high school graduates with recognition that they have achieved biliteracy, the attainment of a high level of competency in listening, speaking, reading and writing in one or more world languages in addition to English. Qualifying high school graduates will have an insignia on their diploma and a notation on their high school transcript as either a Gold Seal of Biliteracy (highest level of competency) or a Silver Seal of Biliteracy (second-highest level of competency), awarded by the Commissioner of Education.

To qualify, 2016-2017 high school graduates must:

- Earn four world language course credits in the same world language (3.0 grade point average on a 4.0 scale is required);
- Achieve a qualifying score on a world language assessment; or
- Satisfy alternative requirements as determined by the State Board of Education.

An administrative rule will go before the State Board of Education to establish the requirements to implement this program in accordance with [s. 1003.432, F.S.](#)

For questions regarding the Florida Seal of Biliteracy, contact Ginger Alberto, program director, at Ginger.Alberto@fldoe.org.

School Entry Immunization Requirements

Before attending school in Florida (grades K-12), each child must provide a Florida Certification of Immunization (DH 680 form) documenting specific vaccinations.

The 2016-2017 School Entry Immunization flyers are available at the [Florida Department of Health Immunization Flyers](#) website in the following languages:

- [2016-2017 School Entry \(English\)](#)
- [2016-2017 School Entry \(Spanish\)](#)
- [2016-2017 School Entry \(Haitian Creole\)](#)

Assessments

Postsecondary Education Readiness Test (PERT)

- PERT will continue to be available throughout the 2016-2017 school year to administer as a college-ready assessment.
- PERT will be available at the current price per unit for districts to purchase at their own expense directly from McCann Associates.
- Districts will continue to have local flexibility with administering PERT by setting their own testing dates, retake policies and postsecondary preparatory course placement decisions.
- The five college readiness/success courses linked to college readiness cut scores are a required provision in the Student Progression Plan [[s. 1008.25\(2\)\(a\), F.S.](#)]. The five courses are included in the [Course Code Directory](#) and on [CPALMS](#). Districts and schools should make local decisions in the best interest of each student regarding college and career readiness course enrollment and instructional support for success.
- A PERT Mathematics score of 97 will continue to be used as a comparative passing score for students to meet the Algebra 1 EOC assessment until a new comparative score is determined and adopted by the State Board of Education.

For questions regarding PERT, contact Sandra Dilger, senior educational program director, at Sandra.Dilger@fldoe.org.

2016-2017 Statewide Assessments

For the 2016-2017 school year, the statewide assessment program includes the following:

- Florida Standards Assessments (FSA)—Grades 3-10 English Language Arts (ELA); Grade 10 ELA Retake; Grades 3-8 Mathematics; and Algebra 1, Geometry and Algebra 2 EOC assessments
- Statewide Science Assessment—Grades 5 and 8
- Next Generation Sunshine State Standards (NGSSS) EOC assessments—Algebra 1 Retake, Biology 1, Civics, and U.S. History
- Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) 2.0 Reading Retake

Information about these assessments, including policy, scoring and schedule information, will be provided in the 2016-2017 Fact Sheets (available in the fall of 2016) on the [K-12 Student Assessment](#) website. Information regarding assessments required for graduation purposes is available in the [Graduation Requirements for Florida's Statewide Assessments](#) document on the [Graduation Requirements](#) website. Information and resources for FSA are available on the [FSA portal](#) (www.fsassessments.org). For the Statewide Science Assessment, NGSSS EOC assessments and the FCAT 2.0 Reading Retake, resources are available at <http://avocet.pearson.com/FL/Home>.

Florida Kindergarten Readiness Screener – Work Sampling System

The Florida Kindergarten Readiness Screener – Work Sampling System (FLKRS-WSS) will be used for the 2016-2017 school year to fulfill the legislative requirement for assessing kindergarten readiness. A 2016-2017 Work Sampling System online module is available at www.brainshark.com/pearsonassessments/2016FLKRSTraining. Additional resources are available on the [Just Read, Florida!](#) website.

ACCESS 2.0 English Language Acquisition Assessment

Florida continues to partner with the WIDA consortium to administer assessments aligned to Florida's ELD standards. Florida's English language proficiency assessments, ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs, will be administered as paper-based tests for the spring 2017 administration. Practice materials and additional information about the assessment will be provided this fall at www.wida.us/membership/states/Florida.aspx.

Districts will have access to the new WIDA Screener Online this fall, an English language proficiency screening tool that districts may use in evaluating and making placement decisions for incoming students. WIDA Screener Online is anticipated to become available in October 2016. In addition to the WIDA Screener Online, a paper version is now available for purchase from the WIDA Store at the Wisconsin Center for Education Products and Services (WCEPS). Information about WIDA Screener Paper is available at www.wceps.org/store/wida/. Districts may also continue to use WIDA-ACCESS Placement Test (W-APT) as another instrument to evaluate and make placement decisions for incoming students. Information about W-APT is available at www.wida.us/assessment/W-APT/.

The WIDA Measure of Developing English Language (MODEL) can be used as an identification/placement assessment for newly enrolled ELLs in grades K-12. MODEL is an adaptive test that can be administered at any time during the school year. Unlike ACCESS for ELLs, the WIDA Screener Online and the W-APT, districts will have to purchase the WIDA MODEL in order to evaluate and make placement decisions for incoming students. Information about WIDA MODEL is available at www.wida.us/assessment/MODEL/.

Florida Standards Alternate Assessment

In the spring of 2017, the Florida Standards Alternate Assessment (FSAA) program will consist of two pathways for assessing students with significant cognitive disabilities:

- FSAA—Performance Task, which was administered operationally for the first time in the spring of 2016.
- FSAA—Datafolio, which was developed in response to the need to support a small subset of students with the most significant cognitive disabilities who do not have an identified formal mode of communication and may be working at pre-academic levels. The Datafolio was piloted in 2015-2016 among a subset of Florida students with significant cognitive disabilities.

In addition to assessments in grades 3-10 for ELA, grades 3-8 in Mathematics, EOC assessments for Algebra 1 and Geometry aligned to Florida Standards-Access Points and assessments aligned to the NGSSS-Access Points in science (Grades 5, 8, and Biology 1 EOC assessment), the FSAA program will expand to include EOC assessments in Access Civics in middle school and Access U.S. History in high school, also aligned to the NGSSS-Access Points. Information will be available in the fall of 2016 at the [Florida Standards Alternate Assessment](#) website.

Important Dates and Events

Dads Take Your Child to School Day

Dads Take Your Child to School Day will be observed on **Wednesday, September 28, 2016**. Districts are encouraged to partner with local community and faith-based organizations to enlist volunteers to support those children who need positive male role models. It is the goal to have all students supported by their father, a father figure or a male role model. Dads and male role models can make a significant difference when they take a more active role in the life of a child. A toolkit of resources and guidance for

this initiative is available at www.fldoe.org/schools/family-community/activities-programs/parental-involvement.stml.

Hispanic Heritage Month Art and Essay Contest

Each year the Governor and the First Lady invite students in grades K-12 to participate in an art and essay contest in observance of Hispanic Heritage Month which will take place this year from September 15-October 15, 2016. Entries are due no later than September 9, 2016. For more information on rules and guidelines for this year's contest visit <http://floridahispanicheritage.com/welcome/student-contests/>.

Progress Monitoring and Reporting Network (PMRN)

New for the 2016-2017 school year, district-level users have the ability to register schools in their district as well as manage school-level users, students and classes. District-level users may also update student demographics and Exceptional Student Education eligibility for the FAIR-FS Modified Task Flow. The Coach's Log will not be available to record professional development activities for the 2016-2017 school year; however, Coach's Log reports for the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 school years will be accessible through the system.

Documentation for the PMRN system is on the [Just Read, Florida!](http://www.fldoe.org/just-read-florida/) website under the PMRN v5.1/FAIR-FS/FLKRS section.

2017 Celebrate Literacy Week – January 23-27, 2017

FDOE and *Just Read, Florida!* are excited to announce that they are once again partnering with First Lady Ann Scott and the Florida Lottery for the 2017 Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida! (CLW2017) initiative. This year's CLW2017 theme, centered on literacy and civics standards, is "Literacy Changes Our World!"

Please mark your calendar and start planning for Celebrate Literacy Week 2017, scheduled for January 23-27, 2017. More information regarding the week will be posted soon. Events will include the ever-popular public service announcement contest, a new community service project challenge, a game show tour and lots of other exciting activities. For more information, keep your eye on the [Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida!](http://www.fldoe.org/celebrate-literacy-week-florida/) website or contact *Just Read, Florida!* at JustRead@fldoe.org or 850-245-0503.

Black History Month Essay Contest

Each year the Governor and the First Lady invite students in grades K-12 to participate in an essay contest in observance of Black History Month in February. More information will be available in early January 2017 at www.fldoe.org/newsroom/latest-news/#rows=20&page=1.

Youth Art Month

The month of March each year is recognized as "Theatre in our Schools Month," "Music in our Schools Month," and "Youth Art Month." The arts are an integral, multifaceted part of life and have the ability to inspire and transform. They provide students the opportunity for self-expression and personal growth, and can offer greater understanding and deeper meaning through integration into other content areas. FDOE values all of the arts and recognizes the impact they have on learning and student achievement. Teachers across all content areas are encouraged to use this month as an opportunity to celebrate the arts and inspire students to encounter and participate in the arts through meaningful, enriching experiences.

Commissioner's Academic Challenge

The Commissioner's Academic Challenge is a highly academic statewide high school tournament inaugurated in 1986. The Challenge takes place in April each year. District teams are placed in three divisions, with each team consisting of six members and a coach. Players are asked questions from the areas of languages, arts, mathematics, science, social studies, the fine arts, world languages, physical education, health and technology. The questions are written by educators from high schools throughout the state. For more information on how the challenge works, advice on forming a team and resources visit www.academic-challenge.org/cac/index.html.