Graduation Requirements for Florida's Statewide Assessments

Overview

According to section (s.) 1003.4282, Florida Statutes (F.S.), students must meet certain academic requirements to earn a standard high school diploma from a public school, including passing required courses, earning a minimum number of credits, earning a minimum grade point average, and passing certain required statewide assessments. Passing scores for the statewide assessments are determined by the State Board of Education (SBE) and defined in Rule 6A-1.09422, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.).

Assessment Graduation Requirements

On October 18, 2023, the SBE adopted new score scales and passing scores for the statewide, standardized assessments aligned to the Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking (B.E.S.T.), which include the Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST) and B.E.S.T. end-of-course (EOC) assessments. The FAST assessments and B.E.S.T. EOC assessments were administered for the first time during the 2022–23 school year, and the passing scores adopted by the SBE are effective beginning with the second administration (PM2) of FAST during the 2023–24 school year and the Winter 2023 B.E.S.T. EOC administration. On July 16, 2025, the SBE adopted concordant and comparative scores aligned to the passing requirements for the B.E.S.T. Standards assessments. The passing standard for a student is determined based on when they took or will take the required assessment, as outlined in the sections and tables below. Students who took these tests for the first time and passed prior to the rule becoming effective have met the assessment graduation requirement.

Grade 10 FAST English Language Arts (ELA) Assessment

The ELA assessment students must pass to graduate with a standard high school diploma is determined by the student's year of enrollment in grade 9. The FAST Grade 10 ELA Reading Assessment is the required assessment for graduation purposes for students who entered grade 9 in 2021–22 and after. The FAST assessments, aligned to the B.E.S.T. Standards, were administered for the first time during the 2022–23 school year. Students must earn a passing Grade 10 FAST ELA Reading score in the third progress monitoring window (PM3) to meet this graduation requirement (see Table 1). In accordance with s. 1008.22, F.S., all students enrolled in grade 10 are required to participate in the grade 10 ELA assessment regardless of whether they have a passing concordant score on file.

For more information on the Grade 10 FAST ELA Reading Assessment, please see the FAST Assessments webpage.

B.E.S.T. Algebra 1 EOC Assessment

The Algebra 1 EOC assessment students must pass to graduate with a standard high school diploma is determined by when students completed Algebra 1 or an equivalent course. Students who complete an applicable course in the 2022–23 school year and beyond are required to pass the B.E.S.T. Algebra 1 EOC Assessment (see Table 1). In accordance with s. 1008.22, F.S., students enrolled in Algebra 1 or an equivalent course are required to participate in the Algebra 1 EOC assessment, regardless of whether they have a passing comparative score on file.

For more information on the B.E.S.T. Algebra 1 EOC Assessment, please see the End-of-Course Assessments webpage.

Table 1 on the following page lists passing scores required for graduation for the grade 10 ELA and Algebra 1 assessments.

Table 1: Graduation Assessment Requirements and Passing Score by School Year

Grade 10 ELA				
School Year When Students Entered Grade 9	**Assessment**	**Passing Score**	**Score Scale**	**Score Scale Range**
2022–23 and beyond	FAST ELA Reading	247	B.E.S.T.	179-308
2021–22[2]	FAST ELA Reading	246[1]	B.E.S.T.	179-308
Algebra 1				
First Participation in Algebra 1 EOC	**Assessment**	**Passing Score**	**Score Scale**	**Score Scale Range**
Winter 2023 and beyond	B.E.S.T. Algebra 1 EOC	400	B.E.S.T.	325-475
Winter 2022–Fall 2023	B.E.S.T. Algebra 1 EOC	398[1]	B.E.S.T.	325-475

[1] The Alternate Passing Scores (APS) on the B.E.S.T. scale are 246 for FAST Grade 10 ELA Reading and 398 for B.E.S.T. Algebra 1.
[2] Students who entered grade 9 prior to the 2021–22 school year are also eligible for the alternate passing score (see Table 2).

Alternate Passing Scores

Table 2 lists alternate passing scores for FAST and B.E.S.T. assessments. Students whose graduation requirements were for the Florida Standards Assessments (FSA) (or prior) or students who participated in an administration of the applicable FAST or B.E.S.T. assessment prior to the adoption of cut scores for that assessment are eligible to use an alternate passing score linked to the passing score on the FSA assessment (including concordant/comparative scores, see Tables 3 and 4) for the purpose of meeting an assessment graduation requirement.

Table 2: FAST/B.E.S.T. Alternate Passing Scores

Assessment	Graduation/Assessment Requirement	Alternate Passing Score	Score Scale
FAST Grade 10 ELA Reading	FSA or prior	246	B.E.S.T.
B.E.S.T. Algebra 1	FSA or prior	398	B.E.S.T.
B.E.S.T. Geometry[1]	FSA or prior	401	B.E.S.T.

[1] Earning a passing score on the Geometry EOC is not required for graduation but may be used to earn a Scholar diploma designation or as a comparative score for the Algebra 1 EOC graduation requirement.

Statewide Assessment Retake Opportunities

Students can participate in the grade 10 ELA Reading Retake or the Algebra 1 EOC assessment each time the test is administered until they achieve a passing score, and students can continue their high school education beyond the twelfth-grade year should they need additional instruction. Please see the Statewide Assessment Schedules page for more information on the administration windows for these assessments.

Concordant and Comparative Scores

A student can also meet assessment graduation requirements by earning a concordant or comparative score as specified in Rule 6A-1.09422, F.A.C. Tables 3 and 4 show the concordant and comparative scores students may use to satisfy assessment graduation requirements. Adults seeking a high school diploma who have not yet met their assessment graduation requirements may do so by meeting the concordant/comparative score available to current seniors (i.e., for the 2026–27 school year, students who entered grade 9 in 2023–24).

Note: On July 22, 2026, the State Board of Education amended Rule 6A-1.09422, F.A.C., to clarify when ELA concordant scores may be used. Beginning in the 2026–27 school year, except for students who have already earned a concordant score prior to the 2026–27 school year, first-time grade ten students may only use ELA concordant scores **earned after** the spring administration (PM3) of the grade 10 FAST ELA assessment to satisfy graduation requirements. For more information, see the Rule 6A-1.09422 Grade 10 ELA Concordant Score FAQ document.

Table 3: Grade 10 ELA Concordant Scores

Available for students who entered grade 9 in 2020–21 and beyond:	
SAT Reading and Writing section[1]	490
PSAT/NMSQT Reading and Writing section[1]	470
PSAT 10 Reading and Writing section	470
ACT English and Reading subject test (averaged) [2,3]	18
PreACT Secure English and Reading subject test (averaged) [2,3]	18
CLT Grammar/Writing and Verbal Reasoning subject test (sum)[3]	39
CLT10 Grammar/Writing and Verbal Reasoning subject test (sum)[3]	39
Available for students who entered grade 9 between the 2020–21 and 2022–23 school years[4]:	
SAT EBRW/Reading and Writing[1]	480
ACT English and Reading subtests (averaged) [2,3]	18
CLT Verbal Reasoning and Grammar/Writing sections sum[3]	36

[1] The combined score for the SAT or PSAT/NMSQT Reading and Writing sections or the SAT EBRW must come from the same administration of the Reading and Writing subtests. EBRW was updated to RW with the transition to digital SAT.

[2] If the average of the two subject test scores results in a decimal of 0.5 or higher, the score shall be rounded up to the next whole number.

[3] The scores from the English and Reading subject tests on the ACT and PreACT and the Verbal Reasoning and Grammar/Writing subject tests on the CLT and CLT10 are not required to come from the same test administration but they cannot come from different tests (e.g., one subject from CLT10 and the other from CLT).

[4] Students who entered grade 9 in 2023–24 through 2024–25 school years may use these scores to meet their assessment graduation requirements if the concordant score was earned from an applicable test taken prior to August 19, 2025.

Table 4: Algebra 1 EOC Comparative Scores[1]

Available for students who entered grade 9 in 2020–21 and beyond:	
SAT Math	420
PSAT/NMSQT Math	430
PSAT 10 Math	430
ACT Math	16
PreACT Secure Math	16
CLT Quantitative Reasoning	14
CLT10 Quantitative Reasoning	14
Geometry EOC	Level 3
Available for students who entered grade 9 between the 2020–21 and 2022–23 school years[2]:	
PSAT/NMSQT Math	430
SAT Math	420
ACT Math	16
CLT Quantitative Reasoning section	11
Geometry EOC	Level 3

[1] Students eligible for the alternate passing score of 401 on B.E.S.T. Geometry may use it as a comparative score for graduation.

[2] Students who entered grade 9 in 2023–24 through 2024–25 school years may use these scores, in addition to the scores specified for their cohort, to meet their assessment graduation requirements if the comparative score was earned from an applicable test taken prior to August 19, 2025.

Other Graduation Options

Scholar Diploma Designation

In accordance with s. 1003.4285(1)(a), F.S., to qualify for a Scholar diploma designation on a standard high school diploma, a student must earn a passing score on each of the statewide EOC assessments shown in Table 5.

Table 5: Passing Scores Required for a Scholar Diploma Designation

	EOC Assessment		
Student Entered Grade 9	**Geometry**	**Biology 1[1]**	**U.S. History[1]**
2010–11 through 2013–14		X	X
2014–15 and beyond	X	X	X

[1] A student meets this requirement without passing the Biology 1 or U.S. History EOC assessment if the student is enrolled in an Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), or Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) Biology 1 or U.S. History course and the student takes the respective AP, IB, or AICE assessment, and earns the minimum score to earn college credit.

The passing score for each EOC assessment is the minimum score in Achievement Level 3.

- The passing score for the B.E.S.T. Geometry EOC Assessment was adopted in SBE rule in October 2023. For students who took the B.E.S.T. Geometry EOC Assessment prior to the adoption of the new passing scores, the alternate passing score is 401.
- Students who participated in the B.E.S.T. Geometry EOC prior to the adoption of the B.E.S.T. passing scores may use the provisional score (499) or alternate passing score on the new scale (401).
- Students who are eligible for these alternate passing scores may also use them as a comparative score for the Algebra 1 EOC graduation requirement.

Waivers of Results for Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities working toward a standard high school diploma are expected to participate in statewide, standardized assessments. State law, however, provides for a waiver of statewide, standardized assessment results for graduation purposes for students with disabilities whose abilities cannot be accurately measured by the assessments. Pursuant to s. 1008.22(3)(d)2., F.S., "A student with a disability, as defined in s. 1007.02, for whom the individual education plan (IEP) team determines that the statewide, standardized assessments under this section cannot accurately measure the student's abilities, taking into consideration all allowable accommodations, shall have assessment results waived for the purpose of receiving a course grade and a standard high school diploma. Such waiver shall be designated on the student's transcript." For additional information, visit the Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services webpage.

Alternate Pathways for ESOL Students

During the 2021 Legislative Session, s. 1003.433(3)(b), F.S., was amended to require that, beginning with the 2022–23 school year, students who have been enrolled in an English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) program for less than two school years and have met all requirements for the standard high school diploma except for passage of the grade 10 ELA assessment requirement, may meet the grade 10 ELA assessment graduation requirement by "satisfactorily demonstrating grade-level expectations on formative assessments, in accordance with state board rule." Details are provided in Rule 6A-1.09422, F.A.C.

For more information on alternate pathways for ESOL students, please contact the Bureau of Student Achievement through Language Acquisition at SALA@fldoe.org.

High School Equivalency Diploma Program (2014 GED® Test)

The high school equivalency diploma program is designed to provide an opportunity for adults who have not graduated from high school to earn a GED®, the only state-approved high school equivalency diploma, by measuring the major academic skills and knowledge associated with a high school program of study, with increased emphasis on workplace and higher education. The state selected the 2014 GED® test as the assessment for the high school

equivalency program during a competitive process conducted in 2014. The 2014 GED® test includes four required content area tests: Reasoning through Language Arts, Mathematical Reasoning, Science, and Social Studies. It is a computer-based test. Passing the test may require some preparation. Adult education programs located in school districts, colleges and community organizations provide instruction and the opportunity to practice the skills necessary to meet the minimum passing score of **145**.

2020–21 School Year

Pursuant to Florida Department of Education (FDOE) Emergency Order No. 2021-EO-02, outstanding assessment graduation requirements for seniors scheduled to graduate in spring 2021 were waived. While the requirements themselves (detailed in this document) did not change, this specific group of students are not required to meet them if they had not already done so. Districts were also authorized to waive Biology 1, Geometry, and/or U.S. History EOC assessment requirements for Scholar diploma designation purposes for students expected to graduate in the spring of 2021.

2019–20 School Year

Pursuant to FDOE Emergency Order No. 2020-EO-01, the spring administration of K–12 statewide assessments for the 2019–20 school year that were scheduled to take place after March 16, 2020, were canceled and any outstanding assessment graduation requirements for seniors scheduled to graduate in spring 2020 were waived. While the requirements themselves (detailed in this document) did not change, this specific group of students are not required to meet them if they had not already done so.

Helpful Resources

- For a full schedule of all statewide assessments, see the Statewide Assessment Schedules page.
- An academic advisement flyer for students related to graduation requirements is available on the Graduation Requirements page.
- The Florida Statewide Assessments Portal provides information about the assessments currently administered and serves to provide valuable resources to students, parents/guardians, and educators.
- CPALMS.org is Florida's official source for standards information and course descriptions and includes helpful resources for educators and students.

Change Log

Location	Change	Date
Concordant and Comparative Scores	Added language about when a concordant score for grade 10 ELA may be earned.	September 2026