

Common Core State Standards

The state of Florida is currently transitioning its educational standards from the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards (NGSSS) to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). This transition began in the fall of 2011 with our Kindergarten students and continued this past fall with our First graders. Starting in the fall of 2013, Second grade students will be fully immersed in these new standards with a blended curriculum of NGSSS and CCSS for our Third grade through seniors. The Common Core State Standards are an educational initiative that seeks to bring individual state's curriculum into alignment with each other by following the concept of standards-based education reform. Currently 45 states and the District of Columbia have adopted these new standards and educators and researchers from across the nation are working together to collaborate on the best instructional practices and curriculum to meet the new, rigorous standards.

Below are links to some resources that can assist you in learning more about the Common Core State Standards and how to support your student(s):

Florida Department of Education CCSS Resources: <http://www.fldoe.org/schools/ccs.asp>

Resource Guide: http://www.ccsso.org/Documents/2012/Common_Core_Resources.pdf

Parent

Newsletter: http://www.fldoe.org/newsletter/JustForParents/2012/JFP_September_Newsletter.pdf

Parent's Guide to Success: <http://pta.org/parents/content.cfm?ItemNumber=2910>

PARCC

Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) is a 22-state consortium working together to develop next-generation K-12 assessments in English and Mathematics for assessing the Common Core State Standards. In the spring of 2015, students in grades 3-11 will take the PARCC exams in English Language Arts as well as grades 3-8 Mathematics, Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II. These exams will replace the corresponding FCAT exams that students currently take in these grades/subjects. Students will continue to take FCAT exams in grades 5 & 8 Science, and End-of-Course exams in Civics, U.S. History, and Biology.

Below are links to some resources that can assist you in learning more about the PARCC exams:

PARCC Website: <http://www.parcconline.org/>

PARCC Florida Department of Education Q & A: <http://www.fldoe.org/parcc/pdf/PARCCfaq.pdf>

PARCC Questions

1. What are the recommended technology and keyboarding skills for students by grade?

A: Third graders will have to do some keyboarding and be able to drag and drop with mouse. Third grade students will NOT have to compose long essays. We do not yet know what grade-level will be required to compose long essays. Grade-level classroom teachers and assessment experts will review the tasks and the responses gathered during pilot testing to ensure that the tasks assess mastery of the CCSS rather than proficiency with technology.

2. What is the schedule for field testing and piloting PARCC items/exams?

A: There will be no field testing of PARCC items in the FCAT 2.0 exams. There are a few districts piloting a small number of items right now. Much larger pilots will take place later in the spring of 2013 and a very large pilot is expected in the spring of 2014. Information has not yet been released on these pilots but it is assumed that districts will be able to volunteer to take part. There is no way that every school in the state will be able to pilot a PARCC exam prior to implementation in the spring of 2015.

3. What specifically will be required for the speaking and listening portions? Will this be every grade level? Performance items?

A: The speaking and listening portions will be on the optional formative assessments that districts can choose to take part in. There will not be speaking and listening portions to the required performance exams. The procurement document (costs) for these services is still under development.

4. What is the length of each assessment that will be required?

A: We do not yet know the length of the sessions. What we do know is that the performance-based tests for ELA will be given over 2 days and the performance tests for Math will be given in 1 day. These will be in early spring. The end of year PARCC portions will be given in 1 day for ELA and 1 day for mathematics. These will be as close to the end of the year as possible.

5. Will there be a single national standard for proficiency, or will this standard be determined by each state?

A: There will be national cut scores to determine the performance levels and a national standard to determine College and Career Readiness, which will be level 4. However, each state will be able to determine what level and what scores they will use to determine proficiency or for making determinations of student remediation or grade retention.

6. How will writing be judged as part of the PARCC ELA test?

A: Writing and Reading Comprehension will be scored holistically as part of the ELA performance assessment. The performance assessment for ELA will be given over 2 days and will consist of items that will be human scored utilizing a rubric as well as items that will be machine scored, primarily drag and drop items and some selected response.

7. Will there be a writing subscore?

A: Yes, the plan at this time is to have identifiable sub-scores for Writing.

8. Will the optional formative assessments provide a prediction of PARCC test performance (eg a predicted level)?

A: The optional formative assessments are not intended to be a predictor for PARCC. They are meant to be a progress monitor and are being targeted for states that do not currently have formative assessments in place. Since Florida has developed or is developing very similar assessments, Florida is not pushing this component of PARCC assessments at this time. Districts can choose to take part but it will be at their own expense.