

Grading Florida's Public Schools, 2010-11

FCAT Performance and Learning Gains: 100% of Grade for Elementary and Middle Schools, 50% of Grade for High Schools

Schools are awarded one point for each percent of students who score proficient or higher on the FCAT and who make annual learning gains (800 possible points).

Performance Components (400 points maximum):

- Percent of full-year-enrolled students scoring at Level 3 or higher on FCAT Reading. (100 points maximum)
- Percent of full-year-enrolled students scoring at Level 3 or higher on FCAT Mathematics. (100 points maximum)
- Percent of full-year-enrolled students scoring at Level 3 or higher on FCAT Science. (100 points maximum)
- Percent of full-year-enrolled students scoring 4 or higher on the FCAT Writing essay. (100 points maximum)

Learning Gains Components (400 points maximum):

- Percent of full-year-enrolled students who made learning gains in reading. (100 points maximum)
- Percent of full-year-enrolled students who made learning gains in mathematics. (100 points maximum)
- Percent of full-year-enrolled students in the lowest performing 25% who made learning gains in reading. (100 points maximum)
- Percent of full-year-enrolled students in the lowest performing 25% who made learning gains in mathematics. (100 points maximum)

Bonus Points for High Schools: High schools are eligible for an additional 10 points if at least 50% of students retaking the grade 10 FCAT in reading and at least 50% of students retaking the grade 10 FCAT in mathematics attain scores required for graduation in those two areas.

Learning Gains Criteria: Students can demonstrate learning gains by maintaining a proficient-level score; by increasing their score by one or more achievement levels; or, for students who maintain an FCAT score at Level 1 or 2, by demonstrating more than a year's growth on the FCAT developmental score scale.

Students Included: Students must be full-year enrolled for their assessment scores to be included in school grades. For performance components, results include scores for standard curriculum, speech-impaired, hospital homebound, gifted, and English language learners in ESOL more than two years. For learning gains components, results include scores for all students with current and prior-year scores on the FCAT or Florida Alternate Assessment (FAA).

Additional Requirements: Testing participation. Schools must test at least 90% of eligible students (at least 95% to be eligible for an "A") to be assigned a regular letter grade. Schools testing below 90% are initially assigned an "I" and are reviewed further to determine whether a grade penalty will apply. Adequate progress of the lowest 25% in reading and math. For schools earning a grade of "C" or higher based on points, at least 50% of the lowest performing 25% in each subject must make learning gains or the school will be assigned a final grade one grade lower than it would otherwise have earned based on total points. Schools falling below the 50% criterion can still meet the requirement by showing annual improvement in the percentage of low-performing students making learning gains. See page 4 of the current document for more information.

Grading Scale (Elementary and Middle): A = at least 525 points, B = 495 to 524 points, C = 435 to 494 points, D = 395 to 434 points, F = fewer than 395 points.

Grading Florida's High Schools in 2010-11

50% of Grade Based on FCAT & Learning Gains, 50% Based on Non-FCAT-Based Components

As established in s. 1008.34, F.S., for school grading in 2009-10 and thereafter, Florida's high schools are graded using the FCAT and learning gains components described in the grading criteria for elementary and middle schools (worth 800 points), plus several non-FCAT based components that account for 50 percent of the high school grade (also worth 800 points). The grading components outside of state comprehensive assessments include the following measures (note that measures counting for more than 100 points are double-weighted):

- Graduation rate: the percentage of students graduating with a standard or special diploma within four years of initial enrollment in grade 9, adjusting for transfers. Double-weighted. (200 points)
- Graduation rate for at-risk students. At-risk students are those who scored at Level 2 or below on both the FCAT reading and FCAT math tests in grade 8. (100 points)
- Accelerated coursework participation for students in grades 9 – 12, based on exams taken for AP, IB, AICE, and industry certification, as well as dual enrollment course enrollments. This component measures the combined weighted student participation count divided by the membership count of students in grades 11-12. Students in grades 9 and 10 may only be included as participants in the numerator if they have successful completions (passing test scores, or, for dual enrollment, passing course grades of "C" or higher). Weighted at 1.75. (175 points)
- Accelerated coursework performance: the measure of weighted successful completions in accelerated coursework divided by the count of accelerated coursework participants. Weighted at 1.25. (125 points)
- Postsecondary readiness: calculated separately for reading and math, the count of on-time graduates scoring "ready" or higher on ACT, SAT, or Common Placement Test (CPT) examinations divided by the total count of on-time graduates scoring at FCAT level 3 or higher. Cut scores for readiness are provided online at <http://www.fldoe.org/articulation/perfCPT/default.asp>. (100 points for math; 100 points for reading)
- Annual growth or decline in the measures mentioned above. Schools that demonstrate an annual increase in their component points receive additional points based on the annual increase in points, up to 20 points per component (up to 40 points for double-weighted components). Schools lose five points for this component if performance declines by 10 or more percentage points annually (with up to ten points subtracted for double-weighted components).
- In addition to meeting adequate progress requirements (learning gains) for low-performing students and requirements to test at least 90% of students (95% to qualify for an "A"), high schools that would otherwise earn an "A" on points must meet a statewide target of 75% for the graduation rate of at-risk students or show sufficient annual improvement in that rate to qualify for a grade of "A." Sufficient annual improvement = 1% or more for schools that have an at-risk graduation rate of at least 65%. Schools that have an at-risk graduation rate of below 65% must show at least a 5% annual increase in the rate to meet this requirement.

Grade Scale for High Schools and Combination Schools (Based on a 1600-Point Scale)

A = At least 1,050 points, B = 990 to 1,049 points, C = 870 to 989 points, D = 790 to 869 points, F = Fewer than 790 points.

Grading Combination Schools (Weighting Factors)

For school grading purposes, combination schools serving the high school grades will be classified as either K-12 schools or 6-12 schools based on the closest match for the range of grades served. These schools will have points calculated using the same components and grading scale applicable to high schools, except the following weighting factor will be applied to the subtotals for points on the FCAT-based components and non-FCAT-based components.

K-12 schools: Total points for FCAT components = 80% of grade. Total points for Non-FCAT components = 20% of grade.

6-12 schools: Total points for FCAT components = 70% of grade. Total points for Non-FCAT components = 30% of grade.



Florida Department of Education
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