CONTENT ASSESSED ON FCAT
SUNSHINE STATE STANDARDS – READING

The *Sunshine State Standards* identify the reading comprehension processes and skills that students are expected to be able to apply and the FCAT Reading test includes a wide variety of written material to assess students' reading comprehension. The FCAT Reading test includes informational and literary reading passages. Informational passages are written to provide readers with factual information. Examples of the types of informational passages used on the FCAT are magazine and newspaper articles, editorials, and biographies. Literary passages are written primarily for readers' enjoyment. Examples of the types of literary passages used on the FCAT are short stories, poems, folk tales, and selections from novels. The *Sunshine State Standards* Reading portions of the FCAT include the following reading comprehension skills and processes.

GRADES 3–5

WORDS AND PHRASES IN CONTEXT
- uses strategies to increase vocabulary through word structure clues (prefixes, suffixes, roots), word relationships (antonyms, synonyms), and words with multiple meanings
- uses context clues to determine word meanings

MAIN IDEA, PLOT, AND PURPOSE
- determines the stated or implied main idea or essential message in a text
- identifies relevant details and facts
- recognizes and arranges events in chronological order
- identifies author's purpose in a text
- recognizes when a text is intended to persuade
- understands plot development and conflict resolution in a story

COMPARISONS AND CAUSE/EFFECT
- recognizes the use of comparison and contrast
- recognizes cause and effect relationships
- identifies similarities and differences among characters, settings, and events in various texts

REFERENCE AND RESEARCH
- reads, organizes, and interprets written information for various purposes, such as making a report, conducting an interview, taking a test, or performing a task
- uses maps, charts, photos or other multiple representations of information for research projects

GRADES 6–8

WORDS AND PHRASES IN CONTEXT
- uses various strategies, including contextual and word structure clues, to analyze words and text
- draws conclusions from a reading text
- recognizes organizational patterns

MAIN IDEA, PLOT, AND PURPOSE
- determines the stated or implied main idea or essential message in a text
- identifies relevant details and facts
- recognizes how an organizational pattern supports the main idea
- identifies and uses the author's purpose and point of view to construct meaning from text
- recognizes persuasive text
- recognizes and understands how literary elements support text (e.g., character and plot development, point of view, tone, setting, and conflicts and resolutions)

COMPARISONS AND CAUSE/EFFECT
- recognizes the use of comparison and contrast
- recognizes cause and effect relationships

REFERENCE AND RESEARCH
- locates, organizes, and interprets written information for a variety of purposes
- uses a variety of reference materials to gather information for research projects (e.g., indexes, magazines, newspapers, journals, and card and computer catalogs)
- checks validity and accuracy of research information (i.e., strong versus weak arguments, fact versus opinion, and how authors' personal values influence conclusions)
- synthesizes and separates collected information into useful components

GRADES 9–10

WORDS AND PHRASES IN CONTEXT
- selects and uses strategies to understand words and text
- makes and confirms inferences from a reading text
- interprets data presentations (e.g., maps, diagrams, graphs, and statistical illustrations)

MAIN IDEA, PLOT, AND PURPOSE
- determines stated or implied main idea
- identifies relevant details
- identifies methods of development
- determines author's purpose and point of view
- identifies devices of persuasion and methods of appeal
- identifies and analyzes complex elements of plot (e.g., setting, tone, major events, and conflicts and resolutions)

COMPARISONS AND CAUSE/EFFECT
- recognizes the use of comparison and contrast
- recognizes cause and effect relationships

REFERENCE AND RESEARCH
- locates, gathers, analyzes, and evaluates information for a variety of purposes
- selects and uses appropriate study and research skills and tools according to the type of information being gathered or organized
- analyzes the validity and reliability of primary source information and uses the information appropriately
- synthesizes information from multiple sources to draw conclusions

FCAT READING BENCHMARK CLUSTERS

Clusters are used to summarize and report achievement for FCAT Reading. Related *Sunshine State Standards* benchmarks are grouped into clusters for elementary, middle, and high school levels.

GRADES 3–5

Cluster 1 Words and Phrases in Context	Cluster 2 Main Idea, Plot, and Purpose	Cluster 3 Comparisons and Cause/Effect	Cluster 4 Reference and Research
A.1.2.3 meaning of words in context; word analysis	**A.2.2.1** main idea; supporting details; chronological order	**A.2.2.7** use of comparison and contrast	**A.2.2.8** organization and interpretation of information
	A.2.2.2 author's purpose in a simple text	**E.1.2.3** similarities and differences among characters, settings, events	
	E.1.2.2 plot development and conflict resolution	**E.2.2.1** cause-and-effect relationships	

GRADES 6–8

Cluster 1 Words and Phrases in Context	Cluster 2 Main Idea, Plot, and Purpose	Cluster 3 Comparisons and Cause/Effect	Cluster 4 Reference and Research
A.1.3.2 words in context; inference; organizational patterns	**A.2.3.1** main idea; supporting details; organizational patterns	**A.2.2.7** use of comparison and contrast	**A.2.3.5** organization, interpretation, and synthesis of information
	A.2.3.2 author's purpose; point of view	**E.2.2.1** cause-and-effect relationships	**A.2.3.8** validity and accuracy of information
	E.2.3.1 character and plot development, conflict resolution, setting, tone		

GRADES 9–10

Cluster 1 Words and Phrases in Context	Cluster 2 Main Idea, Plot, and Purpose	Cluster 3 Comparisons and Cause/Effect	Cluster 4 Reference and Research
A.1.4.2 words in context; inference; interpretation of data presentations	**A.2.4.1** main idea; supporting details; methods of development	**A.2.2.7** use of comparison and contrast	**A.2.4.4** identification and synthesis of information
	A.2.4.2 author's purpose; point of view	**E.2.2.1** cause-and-effect relationships	**A.2.4.7** validity and accuracy of information
	E.2.4.1 complex elements of plot, conflict resolution, setting, tone		**A.2.4.8** synthesis of information from multiple sources

CONTENT ASSESSED ON THE FCAT
SUNSHINE STATE STANDARDS – MATHEMATICS

The FCAT Mathematics test assesses the achievement of the *Sunshine State Standards* in mathematics. FCAT Mathematics tests for grades 3 and 4 include only multiple-choice items. FCAT mathematics tests for grades 5–10 combine gridded-response items with multiple-choice items. Additionally, grades 5, 8, and 10 mathematics tests will include several performance tasks, scored on 2-point and 4-point rubrics. Approximately the same number of questions is used for each of the five strands in grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8. At grades 9 and 10, the *Geometry and Spatial Sense* strand and the *Algebraic Thinking* strand have slightly more questions than the other three strands.

The FCAT Mathematics test for all grade levels assesses what students know and are able to do in the broad content strands listed below. The concept difficulty assessed on the FCAT progresses systematically from grade level to grade level, as does the complexity of the numerals and mathematical operations included at each grade level.

NUMBER SENSE, CONCEPTS, AND OPERATIONS
- Identifies operations (+, –, ×, ÷) and the effects of operations
- Determines estimates
- Knows how numbers are represented and used

MEASUREMENT
- Recognizes measurements and units of measurement
- Compares, contrasts, and converts measurements

GEOMETRY AND SPATIAL SENSE
- Describes, draws, identifies, and analyzes two- and three-dimensional shapes
- Visualizes and illustrates changes in shapes
- Uses coordinate geometry

ALGEBRAIC THINKING
- Describes, analyzes, and generalizes patterns, relations, and functions
- Writes and uses expressions, equations, inequalities, graphs, and formulas

DATA ANALYSIS AND PROBABILITY
- Analyzes, organizes, and interprets data
- Identifies patterns and makes predictions, inferences, and valid conclusions
- Uses probability and statistics