

Florida Curriculum Matrix Summary

The Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) is made up of two kinds of tests: a criterion-referenced test (CRT) which measures how well students are meeting the *Sunshine State Standards* in reading, writing, mathematics, and science, and a norm-referenced test component (NRT) which allows educators and parents to compare Florida student performance on reading and mathematics with the performance of students nationwide.

English Language Arts

The Florida content standards English language arts curriculum includes standards and benchmarks assessed by the FCAT and Norm-Referenced Tests (NRT) in reading for grades 3-10 and in writing for grades 4, 8, and 10.

Testing Priority Designation

Information necessary to make priority designations relative to assessments was obtained from the Florida State Department of Education website. Assessment priorities were determined by examining the content focus reports at <http://fcat.fldoe.org/fccontentfocus.asp>. Data from these reports were used to determine the priority designations for each benchmark. Benchmarks from the old standards were then correlated to the new benchmarks using the correlations found at <http://etc.usf.edu/flstandards/la/index.html>.

English language arts summary data are presented in Table 1 below.

Table 1. English Language Arts FCAT Data Summary.

English LA	# Standards	# Benchmarks	FCAT			NESS		
			H	M	L	H 1-19	M 20-38	L 39-50
Grade 3	20	75	22	0	53	61	12	2
Grade 4	20	80	40	0	40	66	13	1
Grade 5	22	77	20	0	57	61	15	1
Grade 6	19	76	14	0	62	56	19	1
Grade 7	20	78	14	0	64	56	21	1
Grade 8	20	80	26	0	54	57	21	2
Grades 9-10	19	81	31	0	50	59	19	3

Mathematics

The Florida content standards mathematics curriculum includes standards and benchmarks in grades 3 - 8, and 9-12 assessed by the FCAT and NRT.

Testing Priority Designation

Information necessary to make priority designations relative to assessments was obtained from the Florida State Department of Education website. Assessment priorities were determined by examining the content focus reports at <http://fcat.fldoe.org/fccontentfocus.asp>. Data from these reports were used to determine the priority designations for each benchmark. Benchmarks from the old standards were then correlated to the new benchmarks using the correlations found at <http://www.fldoestem.org/page221.aspx>.

Mathematics summary data are presented in Table 2 below.

Table 2. Mathematics FCAT Data Summary.

Mathematics	# Standards	# Benchmarks	FCAT			NESS		
			H	M	L	H 1-16	M 17-42	L 43-70
Grade 3	3*	17	14	0	3	11	5	1
Grade 4	3*	21	14	0	7	13	6	2
Grade 5	3*	23	10	0	13	14	9	0
Grade 6	3*	19	11	0	8	16	3	0
Grade 7	3*	22	16	0	6	15	5	2
Grade 8	3*	19	15	0	4	10	8	1
Grades 9-12	51	321	85	0	236	108	105	108

* Standards are represented by Big Ideas

Science

The Florida content standards science curriculum includes standards and benchmarks in grades 5, 8, and 11 assessed by the FCAT and NRT.

Testing Priority Designation

Information necessary to make priority designations relative to assessments was obtained from the Florida State Department of Education website. Assessment priorities were determined by examining the content focus reports at <http://fcat.fldoe.org/fccontentfocus.asp>. Data from these reports were used to determine the priority designations for each benchmark. Benchmarks from the old standards were then correlated to the new benchmarks using the correlations found at <http://etc.usf.edu/flstandards/1a/index.html>.

Science summary data are presented in Table 3 below.

Table 3. Science FCAT Data Summary.

	# Standards	# Benchmarks	FCAT Standards Test			NESS		
			H	M	L	H 1-32	M 33-50	L 51 -85
Science								
Grades K-5	60*	179	110	0	69	115	19	45
Grades 6-8	26*	109	72	0	37	71	9	29
Grades 9-12	15*	215	81	0	134	135	29	51

* Standards are represented by Big Ideas

Totals for Florida English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science

Table 4 presents the number of benchmarks compared to the number of benchmarks tested in the tests.

Table 4. Total Percentage for all FCAT Tested Grade Levels in English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science.

	# Standards/ Benchmarks	# Standards/ Benchmarks Tested	% Standards/ Benchmarks Tested
English LA	547	167	31%
Mathematics	442	165	37%
Science	503	263	52%
TOTAL	1,492	595	40%

References

Florida Department of Education

<http://www.fldoe.org/>

Florida Curriculum and Instruction/Content Standards

<http://etc.usf.edu/flstandards/index.html>

Florida English Language Arts

<http://etc.usf.edu/flstandards/la/index.html>

Florida Mathematics

<http://etc.usf.edu/flstandards/index.html>

Florida Science

<http://etc.usf.edu/flstandards/index.html>

Florida Assessment

<http://www.fldoe.org/asp/>

***NESS** (*National Essential Skills Study*) in the preceding subject summary charts refers to the International Center for Leadership in Education's 2007-08 national survey, a forced-ranking by approximately 13,000 adults of the proficiencies deemed most important for high school graduates in each of English Language Arts, Math, and Science.

- English Language Arts proficiencies ranked 1-19 were assigned a High (H) rating; items ranked 20-38 were assigned a Medium (M) rating; and items ranked 39-50 were assigned a Low (L) rating.
- Math proficiencies ranked 1-16 were assigned a High (H) rating; items ranked 17-42 were assigned a Medium (M) rating; and items ranked 43-70 were assigned a Low (L) rating.
- Science proficiencies ranked 1-32 were assigned a High (H) rating; items marked 33-50 were assigned a Medium (M) rating; and items ranked 51-85 were assigned a Low (L) rating.

Where English Language Arts, Math, and Science proficiencies overlapped across indicators in other subjects (for example an English Language Arts proficiency within a Science indicator), the rating of H, M, or L was designated to the proficiency in the subject of focus. A complete description of the *National Essential Skills Study* is provided elsewhere in this resource kit.

