

FSA Parent Information Night

January 27, 2015

Q and A Sheet

Questions Pertaining to Grades 3, 4, 5

- When can we expect test scores?

The Florida Department of Education is projecting schools will receive T-scores and percentile scores in June.

- Will there be practice tests students can work on at home? What other materials or links can be used for practice?

Please see the attached sheet of resources to use at home.

- When is the FSA Parent Information Night Power Point available?

The power point is currently available on the TCE website and through email to parents of 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders.

- If a multiple choice question has two or more correct answers and the student only marks one correct answer, will they get partial credit?

No. In order to receive credit, all correct answers must be marked. There is no partial credit in this situation.

- For reading passages, will they be able to read the questions first?

Yes, this is our understanding.

- ELA (English/Language Arts)-What is meant by Craft and Structure?

Craft and Structure E/LA standards relate to word analysis, figurative language, and text analysis.

Examples for 5th grade: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative language such as metaphors and similes. Explain how a series of chapters, scenes, or stanzas fits together to provide the overall structure of a particular story, drama, or poem.

- On reading comprehension, when reading the material, can the students underline or otherwise mark the test?

Yes.

- Aren't written responses subjective as to how they are scored?

Written responses are scored based upon a rubric, which provides consistency.

- What part does all this testing play in the total assessment of my child as well as how does this score affect in future years as my child moves forward in Florida schools?

The FSA provides a comprehensive assessment of a child's progress on the Florida Standards for English/Language Arts and math. Beginning in 4th grade, the FSA scores will measure growth and progress from year to year. Schools also use the scores to help identify students who need additional assistance in E/LA and/or math.

- Will the scores from this year be the norm or set the standard going further? How will that work?

The Florida Department of Education will be determining norms for scoring the FSA. This process can sometimes take more than one year as more scores are obtained from students. We do not know the specifics of how the norming process will be completed.

Questions Pertaining to the Writing Test for Grades 4 and 5

- Is the writing test scored by a person? How is the written response scored, computer or person?

The 4th and 5th grade Writing Test is hand scored using a rubric.

- When writing a response will students get points if the response has spelling errors?

Spelling and conventions/punctuation are expected to be part of the overall score on the writing test.

Questions Pertaining to the 5th Grade Computer Based Test

- What is the save button for? Does the student need to save to avoid losing their answers?

It is our understanding that everything is saved as students progress through the test.

- Reading questions with typed responses-do conventions count?

Yes, conventions are taken into account when scoring the reading test.

- Will the scores from FSA impact class placement in middle school? For 5th graders, will the FSA scores be the standard for which courses the students will take in 6th grade or are there other factors that come into play?

We believe schools will receive FSA scores too late to be used for class placement in middle school for next year.

- How much time will the students be given at school, to learn the software or to learn to navigate the test? How will this be incorporated in to an already very busy day?

Students will have multiple opportunities to visit the computer labs to complete practice tasks to prepare for FSA. Many teachers visit the computer lab with their students on days they do not have a resource class. Fifth grade classrooms also have computers available for practice.

Questions Pertaining to 3rd Grade

- Please explain the student portfolio.

The student portfolio is an alternate form of assessment (from FSA) for third graders to show proficiency on 3rd grade standards. If a student is at-risk for a level 1 on the FSA, the teacher will work with the student to complete portfolio tasks at school. The portfolio provides several activities for students to complete to show mastery of Florida Standards.

- On questions that stated: "Select the sentence that..." how are 3rd graders supposed to select the answer?

We expect they will be asked to select the answer through multiple select or multiple choice.

- When are practice tests?

Students will be doing practice tasks in February and March.

- What date is the Discovery Education test in February?

Each teacher will be able to share the particular date in February for Discovery Education Test C.

- Is the 3rd grade ELA test significantly different from FCAT?

Yes, we expect the grade 3 English/ Language Arts test to be quite different from FCAT. Specifically, students will be asked to read multiple passages of text and answer questions pertaining to both/all passages. Please see the FSA power point for specific information about answer types.

- When will the practice ELA test for 3rd grade be available?

It is our understanding that the ELA practice test will be available soon. We do not know the date.

- What would happen if >50-70% of the students fail one or both parts of the FSA? Will the district or school re-assess and potentially adjust the passing score?

We do not know how the Florida Department of Education would respond to such a scenario.

- Can students volunteer to go to Summer Reading Camp even if they pass the FSA?

No. Summer Reading Camp is designed to provide intensive instruction to students who score a level 1 on the FSA.