



# 2023–24 Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST) Fact Sheet

## Grades 3–10 ELA Reading and Grades 3–8 Mathematics

### FAST Overview

Florida’s English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics Coordinated Screening and Progress Monitoring System, also called the Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST), required in section [1008.25\(8\)](#), Florida Statutes, was administered for the first time during the 2022–2023 school year. This fact sheet provides an overview of the FAST system for grades 3–10 ELA Reading and grades 3–8 Mathematics.

### Grades 3–10 FAST Overview

- Grades 3–10 FAST ELA Reading and grades 3–8 FAST Mathematics assessments are aligned to the [Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking \(B.E.S.T.\) Standards](#).
- Because all FAST assessments are computer-adaptive, items may become progressively harder as students successfully respond to items and easier if students answer more questions incorrectly.
- FAST assessments are administered three times during each school year: once at the beginning of the year (PM1), once in the middle of the year (PM2), and once at the end of the year (PM3).
- Each PM event is tied to a blueprint for the full grade-level content. The [ELA](#) and [Mathematics](#) blueprints show how many items in each reporting category students will encounter during each PM window.
- Here are descriptions of each PM opportunity for students:
  - **PM1** – because this administration occurs at the very beginning of the school year, it is designed to provide a baseline score so teachers can track student progress in learning the B.E.S.T. Standards from PM1 to PM2.
  - **PM2** – by the time of this administration window, students will have had an opportunity to learn the grade-level standards, and this administration will provide a mid-year score to compare to the baseline score from PM1.
  - **PM3** – this last administration will provide a summative score that will accurately measure student mastery of the B.E.S.T. Standards at the end of the school year. While PM1 and PM2 are for informational purposes only, PM3 will be used for school accountability beginning in the 2023–24 school year.

### Administration Windows

FAST will be administered during three windows in the school year (PM1, PM2, and PM3). The following windows have been established to provide schools with maximum scheduling flexibility; they do not reflect the amount of time one school will spend administering tests.

- PM1: August 14–September 29, 2023
- PM2: December 4, 2023–January 26, 2024
- PM3: May 1–May 31, 2024

### Session Lengths

All FAST assessments are administered in one session in one day, and it is recommended that students only take one subject test per day.

Grades/Subject	PM1 and PM2	PM3*
Grades 3–10 ELA Reading	90 Minutes	120 Minutes
Grades 3–5 Mathematics	80 Minutes	100 Minutes
Grades 6–8 Mathematics	100 Minutes	120 Minutes

\*The PM3 administration is slightly longer than PM1 and PM2 because the assessments contain embedded field test items.

The Bureau of K–12 Student Assessment provides scheduling guidance in the test administration manual and scripts. For scheduling purposes, a session length is provided, but students who are still working at the end of that time may be provided the time needed to complete the test, up to the end of the school day.

### Testing Systems

All grades 3–10 FAST assessments will be administered and reported using the following systems:

Online Management/Student Data	Test Information Distribution Engine (TIDE)
Online Test Delivery	Test Delivery System (TDS) with Secure Browser
Results Reporting	Florida Reporting System (FRS)
Results for Parents	Family Portal

### FAST Mathematics

Please note the following information specific to FAST Mathematics:

- Students must be provided with blank scratch paper for all FAST Mathematics tests.
- Students will access and use the calculator provided in the student testing platform for grades 6–8 FAST Mathematics. Students can familiarize themselves with the calculator online:
  - [Grade 6 \(four-function\)](#)
  - [Grades 7 and 8 \(scientific\)](#)

Allowable handheld calculators are permitted if districts choose to allow/provide them.

- Online mathematics reference sheets are available in the testing platform for students in grades 4–8.
- For more information about calculators and reference sheets, please refer to the [Florida Statewide Assessments Calculator and Reference Sheet Policies](#) document.

### Grades 3–10 FAST Reporting

Results for FAST assessments are reported in FRS within 24 hours of student testing. In the beginning of the implementation of a new statewide assessment system, only certain information can be reported until standard setting takes place and new scale scores are established.

For PM1 of the **2023–24** school year, the following information for grades 3–10 FAST ELA Reading and grades 3–8 FAST Mathematics will be reported:

- Provisional scores will be linked to the 2021–22 assessment scale.
- Students will receive an overall scale score and achievement level for the overall scale score on the equivalent scale.

- Students will also receive reporting category scale scores and achievement levels for reporting categories.
- Teachers will see results, by benchmark, at the student and classroom level.
- School and districts will see all results at the school and district level.
- After the close of the window, the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) will report percentile ranks at the student level for parents, schools, and districts.

### PM1 and PM2

**It is important for teachers and families to understand that this information is intended to provide baseline and mid-year results for PM1 and PM2 respectively.** Therefore, for PM1 and PM2, students may not yet be at grade level; however, this does not necessarily indicate that a student is not on track to succeed. These results are for informational purposes only and should be used to identify areas that may need additional instruction and support. These results should not be considered student achievement designations.

### PM3

PM3 provides a summative score at the end of the year to measure student mastery of the grade-level content standards.

In PM2 of the **2023–24** school year and beyond, FDOE will report on a new FAST score scale that will be presented for approval to the State Board of Education in October 2023. For more information on the standard setting process, please visit the [Standard Setting](#) page on the FDOE website.

Student performance on Florida’s statewide assessments is categorized into five achievement levels. The FAST [Achievement Level Descriptors](#) further specify what students should know and be able to do in each grade level and subject as indicated in the applicable standards.

### Sample Test Materials

Sample test materials (STMs) contain sample test items aligned to the B.E.S.T. Standards and allow teachers, parents/guardians, and students to become familiar with the various item types that will be encountered on the assessments, as well as the system, functionality, and tools on computer-based tests. Please note the following:

- While students are encouraged to use STMs, practice test sessions are not required prior to testing.
- For students taking grades 6–8 Mathematics, it is strongly encouraged that they become familiar with the online calculator prior to testing.
- [STMs for paper-based accommodations](#) are also available.

Online STMs may be accessed through the [Sample Test Materials area](#) of the FAST Portal. This site also allows test administrators to practice creating and starting test sessions in TDS for FAST assessments.

### Remote Testing

Remote testing will be available for grades 3–10 FAST assessments during PM1 and PM2 only and will be available only for students enrolled full-time in a virtual school program or for those students who are hospital/homebound. Resources for administering tests remotely can be found on the [FAST Portal](#).

Remote testing is **not** available for PM3, B.E.S.T. Writing, grades 5 & 8 Science, EOCs, K–12 FCLE, or retake administrations.

### Additional Resources

Please use the links below to access resources addressing the following topics:

- [Accommodations](#)
- [Statewide Assessment Schedules](#)

### Additional Information

- Students in grade 3 must achieve a Level 2 or higher on PM3 of the Grade 3 FAST ELA Reading Assessment for promotion purposes. For more information on this requirement, as well as good cause exemption information for students who score in Level 1, please see the [Third Grade Guidance page](#) on the FDOE website.
- Reading Scholarships are available for eligible grades 3–5 students enrolled in a public school who scored below a Level 3 on the grade 3 or grade 4 FAST ELA Reading assessment in the prior school year.
- Students must pass the Grade 10 ELA assessment for graduation purposes. For more information, including concordant score and alternate passing score information, please see [Graduation Requirements for Statewide Assessments](#).

Please visit the [FDOE website](#) and the [Florida Statewide Assessments Portal](#) for more information about the statewide assessment program.