

FLORIDA WRITING ASSESSMENT (FLORIDA WRITING+)

Florida Writes (FCAT Writing) is a statewide initiative to improve the writing proficiency of the students in Florida. Traditionally, students are presented with a prompt and asked to write a composition about it in 45 minutes. The type of assessment is referred to as “performance” assessment, an alternative to the multiple choice format of traditional standardized tests.

Student compositions are scored using a holistic scoring rubric and assigned scores from 1.0 to 6.0. Writing is evaluated for focus, organization, support, and conventions (grammar, punctuation, spelling, etc.). Scores of 3.5 or higher are considered to be satisfactory for School Grading, while the Adequate Yearly Progress (No Child Left Behind) accountability system reports 3.0 or higher.

Florida Writes is administered to students in grades 4, 8, and 10. Testing is done in late February and scores reported in mid-May of each year, generally as the percent of students scoring 3.5 or higher (or 3.0 or higher).

A new multiple-choice section, assessing knowledge of writing focus, organization, support, and conventions (grammar, punctuation, spelling, etc.), has been added to Florida Writes. Results of this section will be reported beginning in spring of 2006.