

# Big Changes: What the New Florida Standards And Assessment Mean for Public Schools

The move to new academic standards is a major change in what students will be learning in the state of Florida. Combined with the shift to a new annual test, called the FSA or Florida Standards Assessment, this is a huge transition for teachers, students and others involved in public schools.

The new **Florida Standards** were adapted from the Common Core State Standards, which were developed with an eye towards what students will need in order to graduate ready for college or careers in the 21st Century and internationally benchmarked against other high-performing countries. They also call for more critical thinking, and deeper understanding, for example:

### Old 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Standard:

*Model multiplication and division, including problems presented in context: repeated addition, multiplicative comparison, array, how many combinations, measurement, and partitioning.*

### New 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Florida Standard:

*Understand properties of multiplication and the relationship between multiplication and division.*

The **Florida Standards Assessment** will be used in grades 3-11 every year to judge student learning. The test will replace the comprehensive FCAT 2.0 test students are used to. It will include questions that ask students to select all correct answers instead of just one correct answer, as well as open response questions, for example:

### Old (FCAT 2.0) Test Item:

If there are 35 bugs all together and Robbie puts 5 bugs into each jar, how many jars does he need to hold all of the bugs?

- a. 3
- b. 10
- c. 7
- d. none of the above

### New (FSA) Test Item:

Create a multiplication equation that you could use to solve  $21 \div 3 = \square$ .

*(Students would have to type an answer, such as  $7 \times 3 = 21$ , into a blank box)*

### WHAT CAN I DO?

1. Continue to learn more about the new standards and assessments at [www.flstandards.org](http://www.flstandards.org) or [www.fsassessments.org](http://www.fsassessments.org) and share what you learn with others via social media.
2. Tell legislators to support a pause in school grades during the 2014-15 school year by visiting [links.jaxpef.org/schoolgradespause](http://links.jaxpef.org/schoolgradespause) and asking others to do the same.
3. Give the new Florida Standards Assessment a try by taking a sample test online at [www.fsassessments.org/training-tests](http://www.fsassessments.org/training-tests).

## What to Expect

The new Florida Standards Assessment will be significantly different than the current FCAT. See below for a list of key changes between the FCAT and FSA:

### FCAT

Grades 3-5 (paper) and 6-10 (computer) participate

140 minutes of testing/year

All Multiple Choice

Tests the Sunshine State Standards

Separate writing test

### FSA

Grades 3-4 (paper) and 5-11 (computer) participate

Testing length is slightly longer:

Grades 3-5: 160 minutes

Grades 6-8: 170 minutes

Grades 9-11: 180 minutes

Different types of responses, including open ended

Grades 5-11 include a listening section, taken with headphones

Grammar is explicitly tested with an editing task

Tests the New Florida Standards

Writing scores included

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