

# UNDERSTANDING FLORIDA SCHOOL STANDARDS & SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY

Florida Standards are guidelines to help today's students think more critically and prepare for success in college and in our ever-changing workforce.



**MATH**



**ENGLISH  
LANGUAGE ARTS**



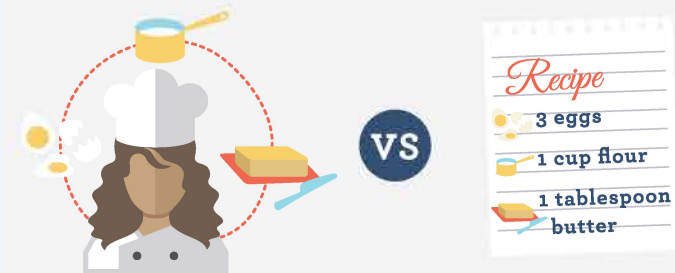
**ALL GRADES  
(K-12)**

The new standards are consistent expectations that foster the **critical thinking, problem-solving** and **reasoning skills** that students need to be successful in the future.

## WHAT'S CHANGED ABOUT THE WAY WE TEACH?

### THINK FOR A MOMENT ABOUT BAKING

You can know how to follow a recipe for red velvet cake and get a great result. But do you know why you put a certain proportion of baking soda, flour and eggs?



The Florida Standards aim to teach students not just what to do, but why and how.



- A deeper, more applicable set of skills.
- That way, students will learn how to bake a cake, not just how to memorize one recipe after the next.

### NEW STANDARDS = NEW ASSESSMENTS TO TRACK PROGRESS

This shift is well under way for our local public schools, students and teachers, who are working with **new ways to help students learn even more.**

Students first took the Florida Standards Assessment (FSA) in spring of 2015, and the **new test measures performance levels and gains among students.**

## WHAT'S CHANGED ABOUT SCHOOL GRADES?



**IN 2015, FLORIDA  
UPDATED ITS SCHOOL  
GRADING SYSTEM.**

The grades are based on:

### STUDENT PERFORMANCE

How many students are performing at or above grade level?

### STUDENT GROWTH

How much have students at that school improved from the previous year?

2016 SCHOOL  
GRADES  $\neq$  2015  
(OR EARLIER)  
SCHOOL GRADES

LAST YEAR'S  
SCHOOL GRADES  
HAD NO GROWTH  
MEASUREMENT

BEFORE  
2015, THE  
CALCULATIONS  
WERE VERY  
DIFFERENT



Ultimately, these new school grades provide important information to help the community **better understand where students are excelling and where they are struggling**, so we can improve instruction.