

OPT-OUT INFORMATION

STATE STATUTE

Florida Statute 1008.22(3) requires school districts to administer state assessments to enrolled students: *Participation in the assessment program is mandatory for all school districts and all students attending public schools.*

The full statute may be found at http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&URL=1000-1099/1008/Sections/1008.22.html

Any requests for changes to existing statute would need to be addressed to state legislators, since school districts do not have the authority to exempt students from statutory requirements.

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RESPONSE FROM FLDOE REGARDING OPT-OUT

“It is critical that parents, students, educators and district administrators understand that assessments are essential to monitoring students’ progress and determining what assistance they need to excel as they continue their education. Therefore, Florida state law clearly states that participation in statewide standardized assessments is mandatory for students in public schools. This includes the expectation that students take all sessions of each test.”

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LINKS TO OPT-OUT INFORMATION THAT IS PROVIDED ON THE POLK COUNTY SCHOOLS’ WEBSITE

**Commissioner
Stewart’s letter
about
statewide,
standardized
assessments**

<http://www.polk-fl.net/parents/testing/documents/FDOE%20Commissioner%20Letter.pdf>

**FSA and Student
Placement**

<http://www.polk-fl.net/parents/testing/>

WHAT ARE SOME POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES?

Graduation Requirement

It is a graduation requirement for students to earn a passing score on the Algebra 1 EOC exam and the 10th grade FSA ELA. A student who does not have a passing score on the 10th grade ELA test or the Algebra 1 EOC may utilize the following (note that students must have a score on the Algebra 1 EOC before a comparative score can be used to meet this requirement):

- A concordant score on the SAT or ACT to meet the 10th grade FSA ELA requirement
- A comparative score on the PERT Math to meet the Algebra 1 requirement. This option can only be utilized after the student has attempted the Algebra 1 EOC exam at least once.
- Concordant/comparative scores on the SAT, ACT or PERT will earn the student a regular diploma, not a certification of completion.

3rd Grade Promotion

Third-grade students must participate in the statewide standardized assessment and demonstrate proficiency in reading in order to be promoted to fourth grade.

Students who do not have an FSA score must demonstrate proficiency on **every** standard through the district's third grade reading portfolio. If proficiency is not demonstrated on every standard, students will be required to attend summer school to continue working on the portfolio. Students who do not demonstrate proficiency through the portfolio or through the SAT-10 Reading Assessment will be retained, unless they qualify for one of the following Good Cause Exemptions outlined in statute 1008.25.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

“Opting-Out”

Schools are required by state law to provide the students the opportunity to test in the appropriate testing environment, even if they miss the initial testing date(s).

“Minimally Participate”

Students may choose to “minimally participate” by breaking the seal (or logging in to the test) and then not completing any questions. However, the student is to remain in the testing session for the duration of the session, unless the student is checked out of school.

WHO TO CONTACT IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PROVIDE FEEDBACK ON STATE TESTING PROGRAM

- State Legislators: <https://www.flsenate.gov/Senators/Find>
- State Representatives: <http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/sections/representatives/myrepresentative.aspx>