

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST) is a progress monitoring system that is administered three times per year to track your student's progress in learning the Benchmarks of Excellent Student Thinking (B.E.S.T.) Standards throughout this school year. The purpose of this letter is to inform you that your student will participate in the second administration (PM2) of the Grade 9/10 Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST) ELA Reading assessment on Thursday, January 11, 2024. Your student's results from PM2 are for informational purposes only, and you will be provided with information about how to access the results after testing is completed.

FAST assessments are computer-adaptive tests taken on a computer or tablet. The questions get easier or more difficult depending on how the student responds, and each student will see different questions from a common item bank. Each test attempt (PM1, PM2, and PM3) will present 35–40 items that will cover the entire test “blueprint,” meaning students will encounter items representative of the standards within the subject or grade level.

As each progress monitoring test covers the full “test blueprint,” all content expectations for that subject and grade level are assessed. For PM1 & PM2, your student may not yet be at grade level; however, this does not necessarily indicate that a student is not on track to succeed. It is important for teachers and families to understand that PM1 & PM2 score information is intended to provide progress monitoring information; once your student participates in PM3, you will be able to track the progress your student is making throughout the school year.

For more information on the test design, please visit <https://www.fldoe.org/accountability/assessments/k-12-student-assessment/best/>. If you or your student would like to interact with the online testing platform or review FAST ELA Reading sample items at home, sample test materials are available at <https://flfast.org/families.html>.

Please review the following policies with your student before testing:

- **Electronic Devices**—Students are not permitted to access any electronic devices, including, but not limited to, cell phones, smartphones, and smartwatches, at any time during testing **or** during breaks (e.g., restroom). If your student is found with an electronic device or is found using Bluetooth/wireless headphones/earbuds during testing, his or her test may be invalidated.
- **Calculator Policy**—For Grades 7–8 FAST Mathematics, approved handheld scientific calculators may be used. For Grade 6 FAST Mathematics, a handheld four-function calculator may be used.
- **Testing Rules Acknowledgment**— All tests include a Testing Rules Acknowledgment that reads: “I understand the testing rules that were just read to me. If I do not follow these rules, my test score may be invalidated.” Prior to testing, test administrators read the rules to students, and students acknowledge that they understand the testing rules by clicking the box in the secure browser indicating they understand the testing rules.
- **Discussing Test Content after Testing**— The last portion of the testing rules read to students before they click the box to accept the Testing Rules Acknowledgment states that because the content of all statewide assessments is secure, students may not discuss or reveal details about the test content (including test items and passages) after the test. This includes any type of electronic communication, such as texting, emailing, or posting to social media sites. Please make sure your student understands this policy prior to testing and remind them that “discussing” test content includes any kind of electronic communication, such as texting, emailing, posting to social media, or sharing online. **While students may not share information about secure test content after**

**testing, this policy is not intended to prevent students from discussing their testing experiences with their parents/families.**

- **Working Independently**—Students are responsible for doing their own work during the test and for protecting their answers from being seen by others. If students are caught cheating during testing, their tests will be invalidated.
- **Testing Accommodations**—If your student has an Individual Education Plan (IEP), a Section 504 Plan, or is an English Language Learner (ELL) or a recently exited ELL, please contact the school to discuss any testing accommodations that will be provided for your student.

If you have any questions related to this test administration, you may contact Amanda Shaffer at [Amanda.Shaffer@stlucieschools.org](mailto:Amanda.Shaffer@stlucieschools.org).

For more information about the FAST program, please visit the portal at [FLFAST.org](http://FLFAST.org).

The following is information for accessing results once your student has completed testing: Your student's score for the PM2 administration of grade 9/10 FAST ELA Reading will be available on the Skyward Family Portal *Cambium* link. Remember these results are for informational purposes only and should be used to identify areas that may need additional instruction and support.

PM2 will be the first time that these state assessments will be scored using the new scoring scale. Please read the following information from the State Board of Education.

- The new scores will be used to report assessment results beginning with the second 2023–24 administration of FAST progress-monitoring assessments (PM2) in December and January.
- The new scores will be applied to the 2023-24 PM1 (from Aug-Sept 2023) scores retroactively during the PM2 window. That way, you will know what your student would have earned if the new achievement level standards had been adopted at that time. This updated information will be located in the Skyward Family Portal *Cambium* link.

Thank you for supporting your student and encouraging him or her to do his or her best during this test administration.

Sincerely,

Nicole Telese