

**Robert O. Hastings**  
Superintendent



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September 18, 2015

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that students will have the opportunity to take the computer-based: FCAT 2.0 Reading Retake / Algebra 1 Retake /Biology 1/Civics/ U.S. History EOCs, Next Generation Sunshine State Standards (NGSSS) End-of-Course (EOC) Assessments **during the weeks of October 12, 2015- October 23, 2015**. For specific test dates, contact your child's school. The FCAT 2.0 Reading Retake is a two-session test administered over two days, and each session may last up to half the length of a typical school day. Each NGSSS EOC assessment is administered in one 160-minute session, but students may work up to the length of a typical school day. Your student will have an opportunity to participate in a practice test to become familiar with the software, item types, and online tools he or she will encounter and use during testing. If you or your student would like to review the computer-based practice test at home, you can access a practice test (called an "ePAT") at [www.FLAssessments.com/ePAT](http://www.FLAssessments.com/ePAT). Your student may practice as often as necessary prior to testing.

Please review the following policies with your student before testing:

- **Electronic Devices**—Students are not permitted to have any electronic devices, including, but not limited to, cell phones and smartphones, at any time during testing OR during breaks (e.g., restroom), even if they are turned off or students do not use them. If your student is found with an electronic device, his or her test will be invalidated.
- **Testing Rules Acknowledgment**—All FCAT 2.0 and NGSSS 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 a radio button next to the statement.
- **Discussing Test Content after Testing**—The last portion of the testing rules read to students before they sign below the Testing Rules Acknowledgment states, "Because the content in all statewide assessments is secure, you may not discuss or reveal details about the passages or items after the test. This includes any type of electronic communication, such as texting, emailing, or posting online, for example, on websites like Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram." Please make sure your student understands that "discussing" test content includes any kind of electronic communication, such as texting, emailing, or posting to blogs or social media websites. 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.
- **Test Invalidations**—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. FDOE employs a test security company, Caveon Test Security, to analyze student test results to detect unusually similar answer patterns. Student results within a school that are found to have extremely similar answer patterns will be invalidated.
- **Leaving Campus**—If your student leaves campus before completing a test session (for lunch, an appointment, illness, etc.), he or she WILL NOT be allowed to complete the test session. If your student does not feel well on the day of testing, it may be best for him or her to wait and be tested on a make-up day. Please remember not to schedule appointments on testing days.
- **Testing Accommodations**—If your student has an IEP or Section 504 plan, please contact the school to discuss the testing accommodations that will be provided for your student.

If you have any questions related to this test administration, you may contact your school's Testing Coordinator. For more information about the statewide assessment program, visit the FDOE website at <http://www.fldoe.org/accountability/assessments/k-12-student-assessment>.

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

Sincerely,  
Valerie Boughanem  
District Assessment Coordinator