

NOVA HIGH SCHOOL
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Dear Parent/Guardian:

RE: Spring 2021 FSA ELA Writing

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that your student will take the Spring 2021 FSA ELA Writing test. Per the Florida Department of Education (FDOE), no remote administrations are available for any statewide summative assessments. The Florida Department of Education (DOE) requires all students present during the testing window to participate in the assessment. Therefore, all students present on any testing or make-up testing days will be required to sit for the assessment. Furthermore, unlike some states, Florida has no "opt-out" policy for state assessments used as the required measures of student achievement for the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015. Students not in attendance on the day of their test(s) will be marked absent and standard absence reporting procedures will be in effect. The final determination of whether a student is in attendance on their scheduled testing day remains with the parent/guardian(s). **The Spring 2021 FSA ELA Writing test will be administered as follows:**

- **9th Grade Standard Time Tests: April 6-9, 2021**
- **10th Grade Standard Time Tests: April 12-16, 2021**
- **9th and 10th Grade Accommodated Tests: April 20-21, 2021**

Testing days are **full school days from 9:30 am to 4:20 pm**. Students will participate in testing for the first two periods of the day, break for lunch, and then return to their testing location (eLearning from home students) or classroom (on-campus students) and attend the last two periods of the day from campus. **The campus opens at 8:50 am and students will be dismissed at 4:20 pm. Please see your child's Canvas Inbox for their specific testing date**, and complete the FORMS attached to the email to verify that you have been notified.

The health and safety of all Broward County Public Schools (BCPS) students and staff are among Nova High School's highest priorities. BCPS has deployed personal protective equipment, signage and electrostatic sprayers to all schools to assist with ensuring a safe and secure learning environment for students and teachers. All students, employees and visitors are expected to complete a daily at home health assessment before leaving for school or work each day. In addition, all students, employees, visitors and vendors are required to wear face coverings, unless medically exempt. Additional information about the District's health and safety protocols can be found online at <https://www.browardschools.com/coronavirus>.

The goal of statewide assessments is to provide academic achievement and learning gains data to students, parents, teachers, school administrators, and district staff to measure progress and achievement for learners. While no single assessment is the sole determiner of promotion, statewide assessment results are considered for a variety of school-based decisions such as promotion, course placement, and acceptance into magnet programs. Students who do not participate in mandatory statewide assessments risk the possibility of being placed in remediation the following school year, and other consequences (such as retention) based on the district's Student Progression Plan. For further information on promotion criteria, please see School Board Policy 6000.1 Student Progression Plan (<https://www.browardschools.com/progressionplan>). Final recommendations for promotion or retention will be made on a wholistic review of the student's academic performance during this school year and their readiness for the following grade level.

 **The School Board of Broward County, Florida** • Lori Alhadeff • Patricia Good • Debra Hixon • Donna P. Korn • Sarah Leonardi • Laurie Rich Levinson • Ann Murray
Dr. Rosalind Osgood • Nora Rupert • Robert W. Runcie, Superintendent of Schools

The School Board of Broward County, Florida, prohibits any policy or procedure which results in discrimination on the basis of age, color, disability, gender identity, gender expression, genetic information, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sex or sexual orientation. The School Board also provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. Individuals who wish to file a discrimination and/or harassment complaint may call the Director, Equal Educational Opportunities/ADA Compliance Department & District's Equity Coordinator/Title IX Coordinator at 754-321-2150 or Teletype Machine (TTY) 754-321-2158. Individuals with disabilities requesting accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008, (ADAAA) may call Equal Educational Opportunities/ADA Compliance Department at 754-321-2150 or Teletype Machine (TTY) 754-321-2158. browardschools.com

For information regarding test session lengths and other information about the assessments, see the “About the Assessments” page on the portal: <https://fsassessments.org/florida-statewide-assessment-program.stml>. Your student will have an opportunity to participate in a practice test to become familiar with the computer-based testing platform, item types, and response formats he or she will see on the assessment(s). If you or your student would like to review the computer-based practice test at home, the practice tests and answer keys are available at <https://FSAssessments.org/students-and-families/practice-tests/computer-based-materials/index.stml>. **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, smartphones, and smartwatches, at any time during testing or during breaks (e.g., restroom), even if the devices 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 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 checkbox beside the statement in the secure browser.
- **Discussing Test Content after Testing**—The last portion of the testing rules read to students before they affirm 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, passages, and prompts) 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. In addition, FDOE employs Caveon Test Security to analyze student test results to detect unusually similar answer patterns. Students’ tests 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 (e.g., for lunch, an appointment, illness), he or she will not be allowed to return to that 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 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 the testing accommodations that will be provided for your student.

If you have any questions related to this test administration, please contact Melissa Atkinson, Student Assessment Specialist, at melissa.atkinson@browardschools.com or (754) 323-1698. For more information about the Florida Statewide Assessments program, please visit the portal at www.FSAssessments.org.

For more information about the Florida Standards Alternate Assessments program and score reporting, please view https://fsaa-training.onlinehelp.cognia.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/8/2019/05/FSAAPT_UnderstandingReports_English.pdf

Thank you for supporting your student and encouraging him or her to do his or her best during Spring 2021 assessments.