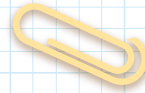# Florida Assessment of Student Thinking F.A.S.T.

Sandpiper's Family Information Night

Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (F.A.S.T.), refers to the new Coordinated Screening and Progress Monitoring (CSPM) System assessments, which are aligned to the Benchmarks in Excellent Student Thinking (B.E.S.T.) Standards.

B.E.S.T. Standards - Introduction

What Matters: Cornerstones of Reading Comprehension
These standards emphasize that literacy is not achievable merely through a skills-based approach to reading comprehension. Lessons designed to instill background knowledge and a deep respect for literary works that transcend time because of the truth of their content and the beauty of their craft are critical to building life-long learners.

Foundational Instruction Matters
In the early grades, the standards emphasize explicit, systematic phonics instruction as the foundation of literacy. Decoding and fluency are essential to creating proficient readers. "Readers who have strong decoding skills can figure out unfamiliar words so quickly that the process requires no conscious effort," says Dr. Holly Lane, Director, University of Florida Literacy Institute. When decoding is effortless, a reader's limited working memory is freed up so the reader can focus on meaning.

Knowledge Matters
Reading comprehension depends more on relevant background knowledge than on mastery of reading strategies. Knowledge acquisition should be the primary purpose of any reading approach, starting at the earliest grades. The systematic building of a wide range of knowledge across domains is a prerequisite to higher literacy. Knowledge builds upon knowledge. Reading comprehension develops as students engage with literary and informational text selections that are complex, rich, and meaningful.

FLORIDA'S B.E.S.T. STANDARDS

ARTS

FLORIDA ELA STANDARDS AND
BENCHMARKS WITH CLARIFICATIONS + EXAMPLES

B.E.S.T. Standards - Introduction

Curriculum Matters

If knowledge acquisition is a core component of reading comprehension, then how the content is organized and presented to students is the foundation of an effective curriculum. The specificity of these standards, along with the clarifications and appendices, will make it easier for educators, schools, and districts to build or select a coherent, cumulative, and knowledge-based curriculum that is vertically aligned across grades and horizontally aligned across subjects within a grade.

Florida's B.E.S.T. Standards for ELA are built on the following premises:

- English Language Arts is not a discrete set of skills, but a rich discipline with meaningful, significant content, the knowledge of which helps all students actively and fully participate in our society.
- The standards are clear and concise so they are easily understood by every stakeholder.
- The texts students read are meaningful and thought-provoking, preparing them to be informed, civic-minded members of their community.
- Standards should not stand alone as a separate focus for instruction, but should be combined purposefully.

The mastery standards themselves represent end-of-the-year goals students should master and are divided into four strands: Foundations, Reading, Communication, and Vocabulary.
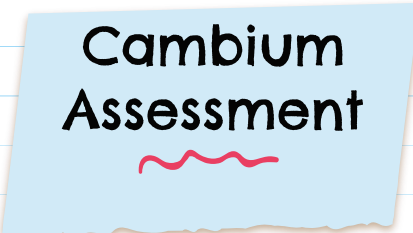
F.A.S.T.

F.A.S.T. assessments include VPK through grade 10 English Language Arts and kindergarten through grade 8 Mathematics

The Assessment Platforms

Renaissance Learning

STAR Early Literacy, Reading and Math for VPK-2nd Grade

Cambium Assessment

Grades 3-10 will use this platform for English Language Arts (ELA) and Math

What You Need to Know

https://renaissance.widen.net/s/rrjwppvgnm/meet-star-for-parents-and-families

Assessment Schedule

01 Progress Monitoring (PM1)

September 6th-23rd
Make-ups through September 28th

02 Progress Monitoring (PM2)

December 5th-16th
Make-ups through January 27th

03 Progress Monitoring (PM3)

May 1st-19th
Make-ups through June 2nd

**VPK programs will not need to set screening windows, Renaissance is calculating the screening windows for VPK Programs within the system.

Grade-Level	Star Early Literacy	Star Reading	Star Mathematics*
VPK	✓		
Kindergarten	✓**		✓
1st	PM1**, PM2**	PM3	✓
2nd		✓	✓

* The district office will turn on audio for all students for **Star Math**, regardless of IEP/504 status.

** For PM1 of K:

- All students will participate in **Star Early Literacy**.
- For students **who score at or above 852**, the school may choose to begin assessing those students on **Star Reading on subsequent administrations**, beginning with PM2 of K.

Important Information

01

One Session

Each test will be administered in one session.

02

One Subject

It is recommended that each student take only one subject test a day

03

Computer-Adaptive

Tests will be computer-adaptive and administered through a secure web browser. (headphones required)

Session Lengths

Subject	Item Time Limit	Items per Test	Average Test Length
Star Early Literacy	90 seconds per item	27	10–20 minutes
Star Reading	60 seconds per item (first 10 items) 120 seconds per item (remaining skill items)	34	15–20 minutes
Star Math	3 minutes per item	34	20–30 minutes

Accomodations

The Star assessment platform allows for the following assistive tools and technologies for any student who requires them:

01 Response Masking

02 Color Contrast

03 Font Size/Zoom
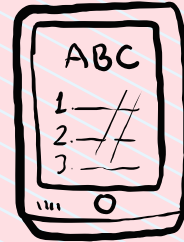
04 Higlighter

05 Line Reader

06 Screen Reader
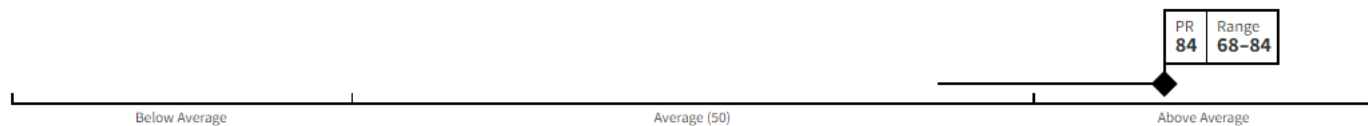
07 Unlimited Time

Sample Questions!

- https://flfast.org/-/media/project/client-portals/florida-fast/pdf/renaissance-star-pdfs/renaissance_star_early_literacy_sample_test_item.pdf

- https://flfast.org/-/media/project/client-portals/florida-fast/pdf/renaissance-star-pdfs/renaissance_star_reading_sample_test_item.pdf

- https://flfast.org/-/media/project/client-portals/florida-fast/pdf/renaissance-star-pdfs/renaissance_star_math_sample_test_item.pdf

Luca has taken a Star Early Literacy assessment on the computer. Star Early Literacy measures your child's proficiency in up to nine areas that are important in reading development. As with any assessment, many factors can affect your child's scores. It is important to understand that these scores provide only one picture of how your child is doing in school.

	PR	Range
	84	68–84

Below Average   Average (50)   Above Average

792
Scaled Score

The Scaled Score is your child's overall score, calculated based on both the difficulty of the questions and the number of correct responses. Scaled Scores in Star Early Literacy in the Unified scale range from 200 to 1100 and span the grades Pre-K through 3.

84
Percentile Rank

Luca's skills are higher than 84% of students nationally in the same grade. This score is above average. The PR Range indicates that, if Luca had taken the Star Early Literacy test many times, most of his/her scores would likely have been between 68 - 84.

1.1
Grade Equivalent

GE scores range from PK.0 to >3.9. Based on national norms, Luca's early literacy skills are comparable to those of a typical 1st grader in the first month of the school year. The score does not necessarily indicate the ability to read independently at this grade level.

Scaled Scores relate to four developmental stages: Early Emergent Reader (200 - 682), Late Emergent Reader (683 - 785), Transitional Reader (786 - 851), and Probable Reader (852 - 1100). A Scaled Score of 792 means that Luca is at the Transitional Reader stage.

Children at the Transitional Reader stage have mastered their alphabet skills and letter-sound relationships. They can identify beginning and ending consonant sounds and long and short vowel sounds. At this stage, Luca is able to blend sounds and word parts to read simple words. Luca is likely using a variety of strategies to figure out words, such as pictures, story patterns, and phonics.

Luca is able to apply basic concepts about print and books to unfamiliar text. Luca applies his/her knowledge of common letter combinations to read words. Luca uses awareness of context, such as illustrations or rhyming words in poems, to figure out unfamiliar words. Luca is beginning to read easy-reader material, but is not yet a fluent, independent reader.

The most important thing you can do to help Luca become a fluent reader is to read storybooks aloud to and with Luca at home. By reading aloud together, you will be modeling fluent reading for your child. Luca would also benefit from games that require matching spoken words to printed words on the page.
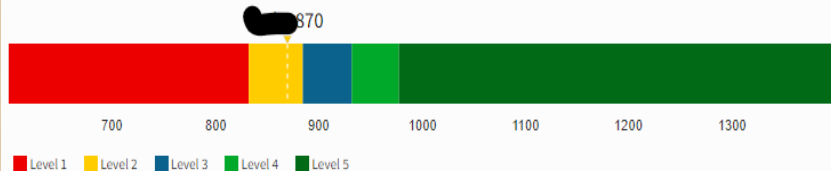
I will be using these Star Early Literacy test scores to help Luca further develop his/her early literacy skills for early literacy practice at school. If you have any questions about your child's scores or these recommendations, please contact me at your convenience.

Overall English/Language Arts Level

Level 2 — Level 2

score of **870** on the Star Reading test is based on the difficulty of the questions and the number of correct responses. The scale has a range of 600 - 1400. This score results in a placement in Level 2, below the target of Level 3. It is higher than 32% of students in second grade and are comparable to those of a typical 2nd grader at the beginning of the school year.

Florida Grade 2 Score Levels

870

700   800   900   1000   1100   1200   1300

- 🟥 Level 1
- 🟨 Level 2
- 🟦 Level 3
- 🟩 Level 4
- 🟩 Level 5

Strand Scores

These scores range from 0-100, and represent estimated percent of mastery at a second-grade level.

- 🟥 Beginning: 0-59 percent mastery
- 🟨 Developing: 60-79 percent mastery
- 🟩 Secure: 80-100 percent mastery

Reading	Score
Reading Prose and Poetry	🟥 51
Reading Informational Text	🟥 46
Reading Across Genres	🟥 45

Vocabulary	Score
Finding Meaning	🟨 61

Foundational Skills	Score
Phonics and Word Analysis	🟨 61

Reading Recommendation

Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD): **2.0 - 3.0**.

ZPD identifies books at the right level to provide appropriate reading challenge without frustration. Enter ZPD of 2.0 - 3.0 in arbookfind.com to find books at that level.
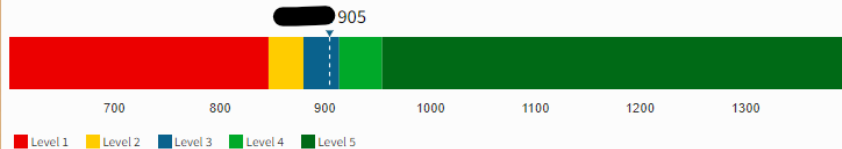
Scan here or go to renaissance.com/star-scores to learn more about what all of these scores mean and how you can help your child succeed!

Overall Math Level

Level 3 — Level 3

score of **905** on the Star Math test is based on the difficulty of the questions and the number of correct responses. The scale has a range of 600 - 1400. This score results in a placement in Level 3, which meets the target. It is higher than 68% of students in second grade and are comparable to those of a typical 2nd grader in the eighth month of the school year.

Florida Grade 2 Score Levels

905

700   800   900   1000   1100   1200   1300

- 🟥 Level 1
- 🟨 Level 2
- 🟦 Level 3
- 🟩 Level 4
- 🟩 Level 5

Strand Scores

These scores range from 0-100, and represent estimated percent of mastery at a second-grade level.

- 🟥 Beginning: 0-59 percent mastery
- 🟨 Developing: 60-79 percent mastery
- 🟩 Secure: 80-100 percent mastery

Data Analysis and Probability	Score
Data Analysis	🟨 67

Algebraic Reasoning	Score
Operations	🟨 69
Algebraic Thinking	🟥 38

Number Sense and Operations	Score
Number Sense	🟨 65
Number Operations	🟨 72

Geometric Reasoning	Score
Geometric Concepts	🟨 75
Perimeter, Area, and Volume	🟥 16

Measurement	Score
Measurement	🟥 35
Time and Money	🟥 49

Scan here or go to renaissance.com/star-scores to learn more about what all of these scores mean and how you can help your child succeed!

RESOURCES

👑 https://www.fldoe.org/accountability/assessments/k-12-student-assessment/best/

👑 https://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/20102/urlt/2223FASTFactSheet.pdf

👑 https://www.floridaearlylearning.com/Content/Uploads/floridaearlylearning.com/images/576499%20Star%20Assessment%20Guide%20QA_2.pdf

👑 https://www.floridaearlylearning.com/Content/Uploads/floridaearlylearning.com/files/FAST-Star%20Early%20Literacy_FAQs_ELCs_updated%2011.28.22-FINAL-ADA.pdf

👑 https://www.floridaearlylearning.com/vpk/fast

THANKS!

Do you have any questions?

Ashley.swickle@browardschools.com

754-322-8456

Sandpiper Elementary