

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that your third, fourth, or fifth grader will take the paper-based Florida Standards Assessments (FSA) in Writing, Reading, Math, and/or Science assessments in April and May. 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).

Assessment dates for **April** are as follows:

- Face-to-face and virtual learners with small group testing accommodations (as outlined on IEP or 504 Plan):
 - Grade 3 Reading: April 6 & 7
 - Grade 4 & 5 Writing: April 6
- All remaining virtual learners:
 - Grade 3 Reading: April 13 & 14
 - Grade 4 Writing: April 20
 - Grade 5 Writing: April 21

May testing dates are to be determined.

Please note that no synchronous online instruction for virtual learners will be provided through Microsoft Teams on any day the classroom teacher is administering the assessment to students as outlined above. Virtual students will have asynchronous assignments to complete on Canvas on these dates. There are no schedule changes for face-to-face learners, as they will continue to come to school each day at 8:00 and be dismissed daily at 2:00.

On days virtual students are coming to school to take the assessment, please be aware of the following expectations:

- April 13 & 14: Grade 3 Virtual Students come to school to take FSA ELA
 - Drop off between 8:00 - 8:15 in car loop
 - Testing begins at 8:30
 - Pickup around 10:15 in car loop
- April 20: Grade 4 Virtual Students come to school to take FSA Writing
 - Drop off between 8:00 - 8:15 in car loop
 - Testing begins at 8:30
 - Pickup around 10:45 in car loop
- April 21: Grade 5 Virtual Students come to school to take FSA Writing
 - Drop off between 8:00 - 8:15 in car loop
 - Testing begins at 8:30
 - Pickup around 10:45 in car loop
- Virtual students remaining on campus until 2:00 on testing days should bring their laptop and charger to school and parents must email Kristen.dorman@browardschools.com so proper arrangements can be made.
- Virtual students should bring their own water bottle and two number two pencils for testing.

The health and safety of all Broward County Public Schools (BCPS) students and staff are among the highest priorities at Tradewinds Elementary. 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://web01.browardschools.com/sbbcpolicies/docs/Policy%206000_1-Student_Progression_Plan_rev2020-2021_final.pdf). 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.

For information regarding session lengths for Spring 2021 assessments, please see the [2020–2021 Florida Statewide Grade-Level Assessments Fact Sheet](#).

To help your student become comfortable with the item types and response formats, the following resources are available at <http://www.FSAssessments.org/students-and-families/practice-tests/paper-based-practice-test-materials/>:

- Paper-Based Practice Tests and Answer Keys
- Student Presentations

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 during testing, his or her test will be invalidated.
- **Calculators**—Calculators are not permitted during Grades 3–6 Mathematics tests.
- **Testing Rules Acknowledgment**—All tests include a Testing Rules Acknowledgment printed in the student's test and answer book 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 signing below the statement in their test and answer book.
- **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 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. Student 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 our testing coordinators Kristen Dorman at Kristen.dorman@browardschools.com or Latasha Kendrick at Latasha.kendrick@browardschools.com. For more information about the Florida Statewide Assessments program, please visit the portal at www.FSAssessments.org.

Thank you for supporting your child and encouraging them to do their best during Spring 2021 assessments.

Sincerely,

Michael Breslaw