

Interim
Superintendent
Dylan Tedders



Okeechobee County School Board

863-462-5000

700 S.W. Second Avenue
Okeechobee, Florida 34974

Fax 863-462-5151

Chairperson
Malissa Morgan
Vice Chairperson
Jill Holcomb
Members
Dr. Christine B. Bishop
Melisa Jahner
Amanda Riedel

04/17/2024

Dear Parent or Guardian,

The Okeechobee County School district will administer the Reading Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST), Math Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST), the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test Science (FCAT 2.0), and the End of Course Assessments (EOC) beginning May 1, 2024. The specific assessment dates are set by each school.

You are receiving this information because you have a child enrolled as a Home Education student or a private school student enrolled in state-funded scholarship programs. Please complete the registration form, link below, if your child plans to participate in any of the state assessments by **Friday, April 19, 2024.**

bit.ly/okeetestregistration

Please refer to the following information regarding each program:

- Home Education program students who are registered in the district, MAY participate.
- Private school students enrolled in state-funded scholarship programs MAY participate
- Private school students MAY participate.
- Students who have received a GED diploma are NOT eligible to participate.

Please note that if your child chooses to take a state assessment and has not attended school in the district we will contact you to collect demographic information such as gender, race, ethnicity, social security number, and date of birth in order to create a state ID number for testing.

Please feel free to contact Student Services (assessment@okee.k12.fl.us) if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Britani Stanley".

Britani Stanley, Coordinator
Office of Accountability and Assessment

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 for Excellent Student Thinking (B.E.S.T.) Standards throughout this school year. The results from PM3 will show how well your student has mastered the grade level content standards, and you will be provided with information about how to access the results after testing is completed.

Your student's FAST assessments are computer-adaptive tests taken on a computer or tablet. The questions get less or more difficult depending on how a student responds, and each student will see different questions from a common item bank. Each test attempt (PM1, PM2, and PM3) will present items that cover the entire test "blueprint," meaning students will encounter items representative of the standards within the subject or grade level. 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 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 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 or is found using Bluetooth/wireless headphones/earbuds during testing, his or her test will be invalidated.
- **Calculator Policy**—For Grades 7–8 FAST Mathematics assessments, 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.
- **Leaving Campus**—If your student leaves campus before completing a test (e.g., for lunch, an appointment), he or she will not be allowed to return to that test. 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.

If you have any questions related to this test administration, you may contact Student Services at 863-462-5000 x1060 or assessment@okee.k12.fl.us. For more information about the FAST program, please visit the portal at FLFAST.org.

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