

2023-24 Guide to Calculating School Improvement Ratings for Alternative Schools and ESE Center Schools



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Table of Contents

Overview	1
<i>English Language Arts Learning Gains</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Mathematics Learning Gains.....</i>	<i>1</i>
School Improvement Rating System	3
<i>Florida Alternate Assessment (FAA)</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Collocated Schools</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Three-Year Aggregate School Improvement Rating.....</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Inclusion of English Language Learners.....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Students Enrolled in Courses Requiring End-of-Course Assessments.....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Florida Alternate Assessment Inclusion.....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>English Language Arts for Percent Tested.....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Mathematics for Percent Tested</i>	<i>6</i>
School Improvement Rating Components.....	8
<i>Learning Gains for the FAST PM3.....</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Assessment Combinations for Learning Gains</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Inclusion of English Language Learners.....</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Learning Gains in English Language Arts</i>	<i>10</i>
Procedures for Calculating School Improvement Ratings	14
Withholding or Revoking a Rating	14
School District Responsibility and Review Process	15
Definitions	16
End-of-Course Enrollment	17

Overview

School improvement ratings are calculated for alternative schools and Exceptional Student Education (ESE) Center schools that choose to receive a school improvement rating in lieu of a school grade, as defined in Rule 6A-1.099822, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), Rule 6A-1.099828, F.A.C., and under the authority of sections (ss.) 1008.341 and 1008.3415, Florida Statutes (F.S.). Based on statutory criteria, alternative schools and ESE Center schools are identified by the Florida Department of Education with input from Florida's school districts. Once these schools are identified for the reporting year, the administration of each school is provided the opportunity to choose either a school grade (using criteria applicable to schools receiving school grades) or a school improvement rating (using criteria described in Rule 6A-1.099822, F.A.C.) for the applicable reporting year. If the administrator of an alternative school or ESE Center school does not choose to receive a school grade, the school will receive a school improvement rating.

The purpose of this technical guide is to provide a description of the procedures used to determine school improvement ratings for the 2023-24 school year. This guide does not replace or supersede rule or statute and is intended to provide the reader with an explanation of the methodology for establishing school improvement ratings, as set forth in rule and statute.

Components

Schools that elect a school improvement rating in lieu of a school grade will have the rating based on student learning gains for English Language Arts (ELA) and/or Mathematics. The current school improvement rating model uses the school grades learning gains components as the basis of the calculation; however, there are additional business rules for inclusion in school improvement ratings that do not apply to schools receiving school grades. Schools will be rated on only those components for which they have sufficient data. Sufficient data exists when at least ten (10) students are eligible for inclusion in the calculation for the component, as described within this guide.

English Language Arts Learning Gains – This component includes student performance on statewide, standardized ELA assessments, and measures student learning gains from the prior year to the current year.

Mathematics Learning Gains – This component includes student performance on statewide, standardized mathematics assessments, including the comprehensive progress monitoring assessments and end-of-course (EOC) assessments. This component measures student learning gains from the prior year to the current year.

School Improvement Ratings Calculation

The points earned for each component for which there is sufficient data are added together and divided by the total number of possible points to determine the percentage of points earned.

School Improvement Ratings Percentages

- Commendable = 50% of points or greater
- Maintaining = 26% to 49% of points
- Unsatisfactory = 25% of points or less

Percent Tested

Schools must test at least 80 percent of their students to receive a rating. To be eligible for a rating of Commendable, a school must test 90 percent or more of its students.

Identification of Alternative Schools and ESE Center Schools

Rule 6A-1.099822, F.A.C., defines an alternative school as a school that provides dropout prevention and academic intervention services pursuant to s. 1003.53, F.S. Alternative schools are identified for accountability purposes using the Master School Identification (MSID) list, as classified by the school's primary service type.

Rule 6A-1.099828, F.A.C., defines ESE Center schools as those schools designed to meet the needs of students with disabilities, which have a unique MSID number assigned and in which all students in attendance in grades K-12 are identified as students with a disability on student demographic records submitted by Florida school districts during Survey 2.

Annually, prior to the calculation of school grades and school improvement ratings, the Department provides districts the opportunity to submit recommendations for additions and deletions to a list of alternative schools and a list of ESE Center schools.

Resources

The Florida statute that provides the framework for the school grades calculation is at the following link: [Section 1008.34, F.S.](#)

The statutes that provide for the identification of alternative schools and ESE Center schools, as well as the framework for the school improvement ratings calculation, are at the following links: [Section 1008.341, F.S.](#), and [Section 1008.3415, F.S.](#)

The rule that describes more specifically the school improvement ratings calculation can be found at the following link: [Rule 6A-1.099822, F.A.C.](#)

The rule defining ESE Center schools can be found at the following link: [Rule 6A-1.099828, F.A.C.](#)

The rule that describes learning gains calculations can be found at the following link: [Rule 6A-1.09981, F.A.C.](#)

The Department's website contains additional information about school improvement ratings, including the results of the calculation for each school. Additional information describing the calculation and historical information are available on the [School Grades website](#).

School Improvement Rating System

Schools to be Rated

A school that selects a school improvement rating is assigned a rating of Commendable, Maintaining, or Unsatisfactory, if it has sufficient data for at least one (1) learning gains component. To ensure that student data accurately represent school performance, schools shall assess at least 80 percent of their eligible students to qualify for a school improvement rating. Schools that test less than 90 percent of their eligible students are not eligible to earn a rating higher than Maintaining. A school shall receive a rating based solely on the components for which it has sufficient data. Sufficient data exists when at least ten (10) students are eligible for inclusion in the calculation of the component. If a school has less than ten (10) eligible students with data for a particular component, that component will not be calculated for the school.

Students who receive testing exemptions due to medical complexities and extraordinary exemptions are not included in the calculations for percent tested or learning gains. Additionally, students who have a dropout prevention/juvenile justice program code of R (dropout retrieval) or E (alternative to expulsion) are not included in the school improvement rating calculations.

Florida Alternate Assessment (FAA)

The 2023-24 school year was the first year that the FAA was administered. Given this, the results of the FAA are only included in the calculation of percent tested. These results are not included in the calculation of the learning gains components. This applies to both the FAA – Performance Task and the FAA – Datafolio options.

Collocated Schools

Some schools with separate MSID school numbers are located at the same physical location; these schools are designated as collocated schools per s. 1008.34, F.S. If one (1) or more of the collocated schools do not qualify for a school grade or a school improvement rating, then student performance data for the schools at that location will be aggregated, and each collocated school will receive the same school grade, as outlined in s. 1008.34(3)(a)3., F.S. In these cases, even if an eligible school selected a school improvement rating, it will receive the aggregate grade generated by the combined data of the collocated schools and will not receive the school improvement rating it requested. A collocated school will not qualify for an individual school grade or a school improvement rating if the school has too few students with data for the school grade components or school improvement rating components to qualify for a grade or a rating.

The collocated school provision may apply when a regular school is on the same campus as an alternative school, a charter school, and/or an ESE Center school, as well as in situations where several traditional schools share the same address. The provision may also apply when none of the schools at the same site are designated as a traditional school, which would mean that a single school grade would still be calculated for all schools occupying the same site. When the collocated schools do not individually generate sufficient data to calculate a school grade or school improvement rating, data from all of the collocated schools will be aggregated and they will all be assigned the same school grade ***even if all of the schools whose data are being aggregated were eligible for and selected school improvement ratings.***

Three-Year Aggregate School Improvement Rating

Due to the transition to the Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST) assessments aligned to the Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking (B.E.S.T.) standards, learning gains data were not available for the calculation of school improvement ratings in the 2022-23 school year. Prior to that, school improvement ratings were reliant upon Florida Standards Assessment (FSA) results, which were aligned to different performance standards than the current FAST/B.E.S.T. end-of-course (EOC) assessments. Given this, the earliest three-year aggregate school improvement ratings can be calculated is the 2025-26 school year, when three consecutive years of FAST/B.E.S.T. EOC results will be available.

Calculating Percent Tested

To ensure that student data accurately represent the progress of the school, schools must assess at least 80 percent of their students to qualify for a school improvement rating. To be included as an assessed student in the percent-tested measure, a student must be enrolled during the third-period, full-time equivalent (FTE) student membership survey (Survey 3) and must be enrolled in at least one (1) course at their school of enrollment, as specified in Rule 6A-1.0451, F.A.C. Students must also be enrolled as of the first day of the statewide assessment window for the subject area and assessed on a statewide standardized assessment per the statewide K-12 assessment schedules published by the Bureau of K-12 Student Assessment on the [Department's website](#).

The numerators and denominators for the percent-tested calculation are determined separately for each subject area; the numerators are added together and divided by the sum of the denominators. A student counts only once for each subject area.

Inclusion of English Language Learners

English language learners (ELLs) must meet the same criteria for inclusion in percent tested as students who are not ELLs. This includes both ELLs who have been enrolled in a United States (U.S.) school for at least two (2) years and those who have been enrolled in a U.S. school for less than two (2) years.

Students Enrolled in Courses Requiring End-of-Course Assessments

Students in grades 9 through 12, who are enrolled in a course associated with an EOC, are only included in the percent tested for that course if they have not previously taken the associated EOC while in grades 9 through 12 or earned a passing score when enrolled in grade 8 or below. However, if a student did not pass the EOC in the prior year and was not enrolled in a different EOC course in the current year, but enrolled in the same EOC course as in the prior year and took the associated EOC in the current year, then the retake of the EOC assessment will be included.

Students in grade 8 and below, who are enrolled in a course associated with an EOC, are only included in the percent tested for that assessment if they are first-time test takers or have not scored a Level 3 or above on the same EOC in a prior year.

Florida Alternate Assessment Inclusion

Students who complete the FAA – Performance Task or FAA – Datafolio for ELA, Mathematics, and mathematics EOCs will only be included in percent tested for the 2023-24 school improvement ratings.

English Language Arts for Percent Tested

Denominator – The following students are included in the denominator:

- Students enrolled in grades 3 through 10 during Survey 3, including students in grades below grade 3 who test above their enrolled grade level, and who are enrolled as of the first day of the FAST ELA or FAA ELA statewide testing windows.
 - The first day of the Grades 3-8 FAA ELA is the first day of the Grades 3-8 Performance Task. The first day of the Grades 9-10 FAA ELA is the first day of the Grades 9-10 Performance Task.

- Students who met the grade 10 graduation requirement for ELA prior to the FAST PM3 ELA testing window are not included.
- ELLs who have been enrolled in a U.S. school for less than two (2) years are also included.
- Students who took the Fall FAST ELA Grade 10 Retake and who took a FAST ELA assessment in the prior year. Students must have a valid score for both years.
- Students who took the Spring FSA ELA Grade 10 Retake and who took an FSA ELA assessment in the prior year. Students must have a valid score for both years.
- Students enrolled in grades 9 through 12 who do not have current-year learning gains based on statewide standardized assessment results, scored an Achievement Level 1 or 2 in the prior year, and who earned an ACT, SAT or CLT concordant score between June 1, 2023, and May 31, 2024, that can be used to calculate learning gains.

Numerator – The following students are included in the numerator:

- Students in the denominator who tested on the FAST ELA PM3 or the FAA ELA assessments.
- Students who took at least one (1) of the two (2) sections of the FSA ELA Retake at their Survey 3 school are considered tested.
- Students enrolled in grades 9 through 12 who do not have current-year learning gains based on statewide standardized assessment results, scored an Achievement Level 1 or 2 in the prior year, and who earned an ACT, SAT or CLT concordant score between June 1, 2023, and May 31, 2024, that can be used to calculate learning gains.
- Students who completed their FAA ELA assessment using the Datafolio option are included.

Mathematics for Percent Tested

Denominator – The following students are included in the denominator:

- Students enrolled in grades 3 through 8 during Survey 3, including students in grades below grade 3 who test above their enrolled grade level, who are enrolled as of the first day of the FAST Mathematics PM3 or FAA Mathematics assessment and are not enrolled in a mathematics course with an associated EOC.
- In addition, any student enrolled in a course during the year Survey 4 or current-year Surveys 1, 2, or 3 in which a B.E.S.T. mathematics EOC or FAA mathematics EOC assessment is required and enrolled in the school on the first day of Spring B.E.S.T. mathematics EOC or FAA EOC testing.
- Students enrolled in a course where a B.E.S.T. mathematics EOC assessment is required during one (1) of the four (4) surveys and who tested in Summer, Fall, or Winter.
- Students in high school taking high school accelerated mathematics courses or credit recovery for mathematics are only included in the denominator if they take the B.E.S.T. mathematics EOC assessment associated with the course of enrollment.
 - Please refer to page 17 for a list of these courses, which are identified as “Optional.”
- Students without a current-year, first-time assessment, enrolled in an EOC course who retake the same EOC from the prior year.
- Students who do not have current-year learning gains based on statewide standardized assessment results, scored an Achievement Level 1 or 2 in the prior year on either the FAST Mathematics PM3, B.E.S.T. Algebra 1 EOC, or B.E.S.T. Geometry EOC, and who

earned an eligible concordant score between June 1, 2023, and May 31, 2024, that can be used to calculate learning gains.

Numerator – The following students are included in the numerator:

- Students in the denominator who tested on the FAST Mathematics PM3 or FAA Mathematics assessment and who were not enrolled in a mathematics course associated with a B.E.S.T. EOC or FAA EOC assessment.
- Students in the denominator and enrolled in a mathematics course in which a B.E.S.T. EOC assessment is required and took the associated B.E.S.T. EOC assessment.
- Students in the denominator and enrolled in an Access mathematics course in which a FAA EOC assessment is required must take the associated FAA EOC assessment or the corresponding B.E.S.T. EOC assessment.
- Students enrolled in multiple mathematics EOC courses are counted only once if they take at least one (1) of the associated EOC assessments.
- Students without a current-year, first-time assessment who retake the same EOC.
- Students who do not have current-year learning gains based on statewide standardized assessment results, scored an Achievement Level 1 or 2 in the prior year on either the B.E.S.T Algebra 1 EOC or B.E.S.T. Geometry EOC, and who earned an eligible concordant score between June 1, 2023, and May 31, 2024, that can be used to calculate learning gains.

School Improvement Rating Components

The school improvement rating components shall be calculated as a percentage; the possible points are listed by the component.

Learning Gains Calculation Methods

Learning gains means that the student demonstrates gains from the prior year to the current year sufficient to meet the criteria below for the FAST PM3. Learning gains may be demonstrated in ELA and Mathematics. Students with one (1) valid FAST PM3 score in the prior year and one (1) valid FAST PM3 score in the current year may demonstrate learning gains in four (4) different ways.

For the 2023-24 school year only, for students who do not make a learning gain based on a combination of prior year FAST/B.E.S.T. EOC assessment to current year FAST/B.E.S.T. EOC assessment, a learning gain can be demonstrated based on a prior year FSA Retake assessment to a current year FSA Retake assessment. This applies only to the FSA ELA Retake and FSA EOC results.

Each learning gains component for ELA and Mathematics is worth 100 points and is based on the percentage of students who met one (1) of the following learning gains criteria for the FAST PM3 as outlined below.

Learning Gains for the FAST PM3

- Students who increase at least one (1) achievement level on the statewide, standardized assessment in the same subject area.
- Students who scored below Achievement Level 3 on the statewide, standardized assessment in the prior year and who advance from one (1) subcategory within Achievement Level 1 or 2 in the prior year to a higher subcategory in the current year in same subject area. (See Tables 3 and 4 for the scores that comprise each subcategory.)
 - Achievement Level 1 is comprised of three (3) subcategories, and Achievement Level 2 is comprised of two (2) subcategories; subcategories are determined by dividing the scale of Achievement Level 1 into three (3) equal parts and dividing the scale of Achievement Level 2 into two (2) equal parts.
 - If the scale range cannot be evenly divided into three (3) equal parts for Achievement Level 1 or into two (2) equal parts for Achievement Level 2, no subcategory may be more than one (1) scale score point larger than the other subcategories; the highest subcategories shall be the smallest.
- Students whose score remained at Achievement Level 3 or 4 on the statewide, standardized assessment in the current year and whose scale score is greater in the current year than the prior year in the same subject area. This does not apply to students who scored in a different achievement level in the prior year in the same subject area.
- Students who took a B.E.S.T. EOC assessment and remained at Achievement Level 3 or Achievement Level 4.
- Students who scored at Achievement Level 5 in the prior year on the statewide, standardized assessment and who score in Achievement Level 5 in the current year in the same subject area.

Assessment Combinations for Learning Gains

The following tables indicate the combination of current-year and prior-year assessments that

can be used to calculate learning gains. The red row labels indicate the prior-year assessment, and the green column labels indicate the current-year assessment. To determine whether a student will be included in learning gains, first identify the assessment the student took in the current year and then the assessment the student took in the prior year. For example, if a student took B.E.S.T. Geometry EOC in the current year and B.E.S.T. Algebra 1 EOC in the prior year, then the student would be included in learning gains. For clarification about what happens if a student has multiple assessments in a subject area, refer to the denominator for the specific learning gain.

Table 1. Assessment Combinations for English Language Arts Learning Gains*

Assessment	FAST ELA PM3	FSA ELA
FAST ELA PM3	Y	N
FSA ELA	N	Y

*The results of the FAA are not included in the calculation of school improvement ratings for the 2023-24 school year.

Table 2. Assessment Combinations for Mathematics Learning Gains

Assessment	FAST Math	B.E.S.T. Algebra 1	B.E.S.T. Geometry	FSA Algebra 1
FAST Math	Y	Y	Y	N
B.E.S.T. Algebra 1	Y	Y	Y	N
B.E.S.T. Geometry	Y	Y	Y	N
FSA Algebra 1	N	N	N	Y
FSA Geometry	N	N	N	Y

*The results of the FAA are not included in the calculation of school improvement ratings for the 2023-24 school year.

If a student has both a valid prior-year FAST PM3/B.E.S.T. EOC and a valid prior-year alternate assessment, then only the prior-year FAST PM3/B.E.S.T. EOC will be considered for inclusion in the learning gains calculations.

To be included in the learning gains components, students must have been enrolled in the alternative school or ESE Center school during Survey 2 week or Survey 3 week. Students enrolled in schools that choose a school improvement rating are not required to be full-year-enrolled to be included in the school improvement rating calculation.

Inclusion of English Language Learners

ELLs are included in the learning gains components if they have one (1) valid prior year assessment and one (1) valid current year assessment for ELA or one (1) valid prior year assessment and one (1) valid current year assessment for Mathematics. This can include ELLs who have been enrolled in a U.S. school for less than two (2) years.

Learning Gains in English Language Arts

Table 3. FAST English Language Arts Scale Scores for Learning Gains

Grade Level	Level 1	Level 1 Low	Level 1 Middle	Level 1 High	Level 2	Level 2 Low	Level 2 High	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
Grade 3	140-185	140-155	156-170	171-185	186-200	186-193	194-200	201-212	213-224	225-260
Grade 4	154-198	154-168	169-183	184-198	199-212	199-205	206-212	213-223	224-236	237-270
Grade 5	160-205	160-175	176-190	191-205	206-221	206-213	214-221	222-231	232-245	246-279
Grade 6	161-208	161-176	177-192	193-208	209-216	209-216	217-224	225-236	237-249	250-284
Grade 7	165-214	165-181	182-198	199-214	215-223	215-223	224-231	232-241	242-256	257-292
Grade 8	169-219	169-185	186-202	203-219	220-237	220-228	229-237	238-250	251-261	262-300
Grade 9	174-223	174-190	191-207	208-223	224-241	224-232	233-241	242-253	254-266	267-303
Grade 10	179-229	179-195	196-212	213-229	230-246	230-238	239-246	247-257	258-270	271-308

Learning Gains in English Language Arts (100 points)

Denominator – The following students are included in the denominator:

- Students with a valid current-year assessment score and a valid prior-year assessment score, who tested on or above their enrollment grade level in the current year.
 - Students who met the grade 10 graduation requirement prior- to the current-year FAST ELA PM3 testing window and who did not make a learning gain are not included.
- Students must have one (1) valid combination of current-year and prior-year assessments (refer to Table 1).
- Students enrolled in grades 9 through 12 who do not have current-year learning gains based on statewide standardized assessment results, scored an Achievement Level 1 or 2 in the prior year on the FAST ELA PM3, and who earned an ACT, SAT, or CLT concordant score between June 1, 2023, and May 31, 2024, that can be used to calculate learning gains.

Numerator – The following students are included in the numerator:

- Students who are included in the denominator who make a gain according to pages 8-9, using Table 3, as applicable, to determine gains for students who remained in the same achievement level below Level 5.
- Students enrolled in grades 9 through 12 who do not have current-year learning gains based on statewide standardized assessment results, scored an Achievement Level 1 or 2 in the prior year on the FAST ELA PM3 assessment, and who earned an ACT, SAT, or CLT concordant score between June 1, 2023, and May 31, 2024, that can be used to calculate learning gains.

Learning Gains in Mathematics and EOCs

Table 4. FAST Mathematics and B.E.S.T. EOC Scale Scores for Learning Gains

Grade Level	Level 1	Level 1 Low	Level 1 Middle	Level 1 High	Level 2	Level 2 Low	Level 2 High	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
Grade 3	140-182	140-154	155-168	169-182	183-197	183-190	191-197	198-208	209-224	225-260
Grade 4	155-199	155-169	170-184	185-199	200-210	200-205	206-210	211-220	221-237	238-273
Grade 5	158-206	158-174	175-190	191-206	207-221	207-214	215-221	222-233	234-245	246-285
Grade 6	168-212	168-182	183-197	198-212	213-228	213-220	221-228	229-238	239-253	254-287
Grade 7	175-222	175-190	191-206	207-222	223-234	223-228	229-234	235-246	247-257	258-288
Grade 8	183-222	183-197	198-212	213-226	227-243	227-235	236-243	244-253	254-262	263-291
Algebra 1	325-378	325-342	243-360	361-378	379-399	379-389	390-399	400-417	418-434	435-475
Geometry	325-384	325-344	345-364	365-384	385-403	385-394	395-403	404-422	432-431	432-475

FAST Mathematics Learning Gains for Retained Students

If a student was enrolled in grade 8 or below in the prior year and retakes the same assessment in the current year, then the student must

- increase one (1) or more achievement levels,
- increase at least one (1) subcategory if maintaining an Achievement Level 1 or 2,
- increase their scale score by at least one (1) point if maintaining an Achievement Level 3 or 4,
or
- maintain an Achievement Level 5.

Learning Gains for FAST Mathematics to B.E.S.T. EOCs and B.E.S.T. EOCs to FAST Mathematics

To make a learning gain, students with valid assessment combinations of prior-year FAST Mathematics and current-year B.E.S.T. EOC(s) or prior-year B.E.S.T. EOC(s) and current-year FAST Mathematics must either

- increase one (1) or more achievement levels,
- increase at least one (1) subcategory if maintaining an Achievement Level 1 or 2,
or
- maintain an Achievement Level 3, 4, or 5.

Because of the different score scales for the FAST Mathematics and the B.E.S.T. mathematics EOCs, students who maintain an Achievement Level 3 or 4 will not be required to increase their scale score by one (1) point to demonstrate a learning gain.

Learning Gains for B.E.S.T. Mathematics EOCs

To make a learning gain, students with valid assessment combinations of prior-year and current-year B.E.S.T. mathematics EOCs must either

- increase one (1) or more achievement levels,
- increase at least one (1) subcategory if maintaining an Achievement Level 1 or 2,
or
- maintain an Achievement Level 3, 4, or 5.

Students Enrolled in Mathematics Courses Requiring EOC Assessments

Learning gains will be calculated using a student's highest EOC assessment score in each subject of the prior school year; inclusion criteria for the current-year assessments are described below.

Statewide EOC assessment scores used for the learning gains components for students in grades 9 through 12 will be scores for the assessments administered to students for the first time in grades 9 through 12 and must be for a course in which they were enrolled in the current year. Students who earned a passing score on an EOC when enrolled in grade 8 or below who take that same EOC while enrolled in grades 9 through 12 will not be considered first-time test takers for that EOC. If a student took the assessment for the first time in grades 9 through 12 and then retook the assessment during the same school grades school year, the highest score will be included in the calculation.

Statewide EOC assessment scores used for the learning gains components for students in grade 8 and below will be scores for a course in which the student was enrolled in the current year. If a student retook the assessment during the same school grades school year while enrolled in the course, the highest score will be included in the calculation. Students who take an EOC assessment but have earned a passing score in a prior year will not be included in the calculation.

Learning Gains in Mathematics (100 points)

Denominator – The following students are included in the denominator:

- Students with a valid current-year assessment score and a valid prior-year assessment score, who tested on or above their enrollment grade level in the current year.
- Students must have a valid combination of current-year and prior-year assessments (refer to Table 2).
 - Criteria for inclusion in current-year mathematics percent tested apply to the current-year assessment for inclusion in learning gains (see pages 8-9).
 - Students with valid combinations for multiple mathematics assessments will be included only once in the denominator.
- Students without a current-year, first-time assessment, enrolled in an EOC course who retake the same EOC from the prior year.
- Students who do not have current-year learning gains based on statewide standardized assessment results, who scored an Achievement Level 1 or 2 in the prior year on either the FAST Mathematics PM3, B.E.S.T. Algebra 1 EOC, or B.E.S.T. Geometry EOC, and who earned an eligible concordant score between June 1, 2023, and May 31, 2024, that can be used to calculate learning gains.

Numerator – The following students are included in the numerator:

- Students who are included in the denominator and make a gain according to pages 8-9.
 - For students with a prior-year FAST Mathematics PM3 assessment and a current-year FAST Mathematics PM3 assessment, use Table 5 to determine gains for students who remained in the same achievement level below Level 5.
 - Students with valid combinations for multiple mathematics assessments and who have demonstrated learning gains for more than one (1) assessment will be included only once in the numerator.
- Students who do not have current-year learning gains based on statewide standardized assessment results, who scored an Achievement Level 1 or 2 in the prior year on either

the FAST Mathematics PM3, B.E.S.T. Algebra 1 EOC, or B.E.S.T. Geometry EOC, and who earned an eligible concordant score between June 1, 2023, and May 31, 2024, that can be used to calculate learning gains.

Procedures for Calculating School Improvement Ratings

A school improvement rating shall be calculated based on the percentage of possible points earned by each school for the components applicable to the school. In the calculation of a school's rating, 100 points are available for each component with sufficient data, with one (1) point earned for each percentage of students meeting the criteria for the component. The points earned for each component shall be expressed as whole numbers by rounding the percentages.

The school's rating is determined by summing the points earned for each component and dividing this sum by the total number of available points for all components with sufficient data. The percentage resulting from this calculation will be expressed as a whole number.

School improvement ratings shall be assigned to eligible schools that opt in based on the percentage of total applicable points earned as follows:

- 50 percent of total applicable points or higher equals a rating of Commendable.
- 26 to 49 percent of total applicable points equals a rating of Maintaining.
- 25 percent of total applicable points or less equals a rating of Unsatisfactory.

Schools that do not have sufficient data for any of the components will not receive a school improvement rating. School improvement ratings will not be calculated for schools that test fewer than 80 percent of the students enrolled. The Department will withhold the ratings of schools that did not test a large enough percentage of students so that the Department and the district can review the data and resolve any data issues that may have led to the calculation of a low percentage of students tested and allow for an analysis of whether the available data accurately reflect the performance of the school's student body. If the commissioner determines that the performance data for these schools are representative of the schools' progress, the Department will release school improvement ratings for these schools at the end of the appeals period, regardless of whether or not the district submitted an appeal letter for the school(s).

Withholding or Revoking a Rating

A school improvement rating shall be withheld or revoked, and designated as incomplete (I), if the data do not accurately represent the progress of the school. The circumstances where data do not accurately represent the progress of a school are when

- the percent of students tested at the school is less than 80 percent of the school's eligible student population; or
- before, during, or following the administration of any state assessment, the validity or integrity of the test administration or results are under review and investigation based upon allegations of test administration and security violations as described in s. 1008.24, F.S., or Rule 6A-10.042, F.A.C.

Upon conclusion of the review and investigation and a determination by the Department that the data accurately represent the progress of the school, the Department will assign an improvement rating to the school.

School District Responsibility and Review Process

Each school district shall be responsible for providing the Department with accurate, complete, and timely school district data so that the Department can calculate school grades and school improvement ratings in accordance with the requirements of s. 1008.34, F.S., Rule 6A-1.09981, F.A.C., and Rule 6A-1.099822, F.A.C. Each school district superintendent must designate a school accountability contact person who is responsible for verifying the data submitted to the Department for use in school grades and school improvement ratings.

Based upon the data provided by school districts, the Department will create data files from which grades and ratings will be calculated and provide districts the opportunity to review these files and make corrections, updates, and provide additional matches.

Subsequent to the review process described above, the Department will provide school districts with school improvement ratings for the schools in the district. Districts shall be afforded an opportunity to contest or appeal a school improvement rating within 30 days of the release of the school improvement rating.

A successful appeal requires that the district clearly demonstrate the following:

- Due to the omission of student data, a data miscalculation, or a special circumstance beyond the control of the district, a different rating would be assigned to a school.
- Where the percent of students tested is less than 80 percent at a school and the school did not receive a rating, that the student data accurately represent the progress of the school.

An appeal will not be granted under the following circumstances:

- It was not timely received.
- It was not submitted by the district superintendent.
- It would not result in a different rating, if granted.
- It relies upon data that the district had the opportunity to correct, but failed to do so, under the process described above or the data reporting processes as defined in Rule 6A-1.0014, F.A.C.

In order to ensure that districts have the opportunity to submit and review data upon which ratings are calculated, the Department shall annually publish the timeframes and deadlines for these activities on the [School Grades website](#). Districts shall be afforded a minimum of 14 days to submit corrections as a result of the review opportunity set forth in Rule 6A-1.09981, F.A.C.

Definitions

For the purpose of calculating school improvement ratings, the following definitions apply:

“Dropout prevention/juvenile justice program codes” are those codes reported on the student demographic format that identify students in alternative education programs.

“Economically Disadvantaged Rate” means the percentage of students who qualify for free or reduced-price lunches, as identified by the [Lunch Status](#) data element, which is the indicator used to calculate the percentage of students classified as economically disadvantaged.

“First day of testing”/“time of testing” means the first day of the statewide testing window for each assessment. Please refer to the [Statewide Assessment Schedule](#) published by the Bureau of K-12 Student Assessment.

“Full-year-enrolled student” means a student who is present for both the second and third period FTE student membership surveys (Surveys 2 and 3) as specified in Rule 6A-1.0451, F.A.C., and who is still enrolled at the time of statewide standardized testing.

“Home-zoned school” means the school that the student would otherwise attend if the student was not enrolled in the alternative school or ESE Center school. This school is recorded as the [School Number, Zoned School](#) and [District Number, Zoned School](#) data elements in the automated student information system. The student does not have to have been enrolled in the home-zoned school.

“Learning gains” means the student demonstrates gains from the prior year to the current year sufficient to meet the criteria listed on pages 8-13. Learning gains may be demonstrated in ELA and Mathematics.

“Minority Rate” means the percentage of students at the school who are not White.

“Passing” means the student must attain a statewide standardized assessment score that lies within Achievement Level 3 or higher.

“School improvement rating component” means the measures for which a school could receive a rating and include ELA learning gains and Mathematics learning gains.

“School grades school year” means the Fall, Winter, Spring, and the preceding Summer for the purposes of the school grades and school improvement ratings calculations.

“Statewide standardized assessments” means the assessments required in s. 1008.22(3), F.S., including the comprehensive progress monitoring PM3 administration and the EOC assessments.

“Subject areas” means the two (2) areas of ELA (grades 3 through 10) and Mathematics (Mathematics in grades 3 through 8, Algebra 1, and Geometry). Both subject areas include both standard and, in the case of calculating the percent tested only, alternate assessments.

End-of-Course Enrollment

The following table lists the courses used to identify EOC course enrollment on the prior-year Survey 4 and current-year Surveys 1, 2, and 3. The fourth column indicates whether students are required to take an EOC assessment at the conclusion of the course. Students enrolled in “optional” courses will only be included in school improvement ratings if they take the associated EOC.

Table 5. Courses Associated with B.E.S.T. Mathematics EOC Assessments

Course	Course Name	Subject	Required/Optional
1200310	Algebra 1	Algebra 1	Required
1200315	Algebra 1 for Credit Recovery	Algebra 1	Optional
1200320	Algebra 1 Honors	Algebra 1	Required
1200380	Algebra 1-B	Algebra 1	Required
1200385	Algebra 1-B for Credit Recovery	Algebra 1	Optional
1200386	Pre-Advanced Placement Algebra 1	Algebra 1	Required
1200390	IB Middle Years Program Algebra 1 Honors	Algebra 1	Required
1206310	Geometry	Geometry	Required
1206315	Geometry for Credit Recovery	Geometry	Optional
1206320	Geometry Honors	Geometry	Required
1206810	IB Middle Years Program Geometry Honors	Geometry	Required
1209810	Pre-Advanced International Certificate of Education (pre-AICE) Mathematics 1	Algebra 1	Required
1209820	Pre-Advanced International Certificate of Education (pre-AICE) Mathematics 2	Geometry	Required
7912065	Access Geometry	Geometry	Access
7912075	Access Algebra 1	Algebra 1	Access
7912090	Access Algebra 1B	Algebra 1	Access