

Statewide Science Assessment Overview

This fact sheet provides information about the Grades 5 and 8 Statewide Science Assessments that measure student achievement of the [Next Generation Sunshine State Standards](#) (NGSSS).

Students to Be Tested in 2018–19

- Students enrolled in grades 5 and 8 will participate in the Statewide Science Assessment.
- Students receiving accelerated instruction in science may participate in the appropriate Statewide Science Assessment.
- In accordance with section 1008.22(3)(b)2., Florida Statutes, middle grades students may not be tested on both the Statewide Science Assessment and the Biology 1 End-of-Course (EOC) Assessment. Students enrolled in Biology 1 must take the EOC assessment, not the Statewide Science Assessment.

Test Administration Schedule

For a full schedule of all statewide assessments, see the [2018–19 Statewide Assessment Schedule](#).

Test Administration Information

- The Statewide Science Assessment is administered as a paper-best test.
- Test materials for large print, braille and one-item-per-page accommodations are available for students whose Individual Educational Plan (IEP) or Section 504 plan indicates these accommodations.
- The Statewide Science Assessment is administered in two 80-minute sessions. Grade 5 Science is administered over two days; Grade 8 Science is administered in one day.
- Students taking the Grade 8 Statewide Science Assessment will receive a hand-held, four-function calculator and a Periodic Table of the Elements for use during the assessment.
- The Statewide Science Assessments consist of multiple-choice items only.
- The [NGSSS Test Design Summary](#) provides a map or blueprint for how each EOC assessment is designed. The summary shows the standards assessed within each reporting category and the representation of each category, in percentages, on the test.

Practice Tests

- Sample test books and answer key books for students taking the Statewide Science Assessment can be downloaded from the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) [Statewide Science Assessment](#) page.
- Districts may order paper-based large print or braille practice materials for students participating with these accommodations.

Achievement Levels and Scale Scores

Student performance on Florida’s statewide assessments is categorized into five achievement levels. Table 1 on the following page provides information regarding student performance at each achievement level for the Statewide Science Assessment; this information is provided on student reports so that students, parents, and educators may interpret student results in a meaningful way.

Table 1. Achievement Levels

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
Indicates an inadequate level of success with the challenging content of the NGSSS.	Indicates a below satisfactory level of success with the challenging content of the NGSSS.	Indicates a satisfactory level of success with the challenging content of the NGSSS.	Indicates an above satisfactory level of success with the challenging content of the NGSSS.	Indicates mastery of the most challenging content of the NGSSS.

Achievement level scale score ranges for the Statewide Science Assessments are provided in Table 2 below. The lowest score in Level 3 is the passing score.

Table 2. Achievement Levels for the Statewide Science Assessment Scale Scores (140–260)

Grade	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
5	140–184	185–199	200–214	215–224	225–260
8	140–184	185–202	203–214	215–224	225–260

Additional Information

- For more information about student reports, reporting categories and achievement levels for the Statewide Science Assessment, please see [Understanding NGSSS Science and EOC Reports](#).
- For information about the Florida Standards Assessments (FSA), please visit the [FSA Portal](#).

Please visit the [FDOE website](#) for more information about the statewide assessment program.