

2014

May 2014

**FCAT 2.0**  
Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test®

# FCAT 2.0 Writing Grades 4, 8 and 10



# FCAT 2.0 Writing

## Grades 4, 8 and 10

Florida has transitioned from the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test® (FCAT) to the FCAT 2.0 to align with the *Next Generation Sunshine State Standards* (NGSSS), which specify the challenging content Florida students are expected to know and be able to do. Next year, Florida will be transitioning to the Florida Standards in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics. As part of this transition, Florida will be developing new assessments that will replace the current FCAT 2.0 and Florida End-of-Course Assessments administered in Writing, Reading and Mathematics. FCAT 2.0 Reading and FCAT 2.0 Writing will be replaced by one assessment in ELA. This is the last administration of the FCAT 2.0 Writing assessment.

On January 21, 2014, the State Board of Education established passing scores for all FCAT 2.0 assessments, as required by Section 1008.22(3), Florida Statutes. Although state law does not require students to pass FCAT 2.0 Writing for student progression or graduation purposes, the State Board has established a score of 3.5 as the passing score for the writing assessment. Students scoring at 3.5 or above are used in the proficiency calculation for school grades. Students receive scores on a 1.0 to 6.0 point scale. Information regarding holistic scoring is available at <http://fcap.fldoe.org/rubrcpag.asp>.

In the 2012-13 school year, FCAT Writing became FCAT 2.0 Writing to indicate changes to the assessment. Higher scoring expectations were implemented in 2011-12; however, students were given an additional 15 minutes to respond to the writing prompt in 2012-13 and 2013-14. The increase from 45 minutes to 60 minutes was provided after 2012 FCAT Writing comment forms showed that Florida educators observed students needed more time to respond to writing prompts in order to satisfy higher scoring expectations. The increase in the time allotted for students to take the assessment should be considered when comparing 2012 results to other years in this media packet.

The scoring requirements for the FCAT 2.0 Writing assessment are the same as those implemented in 2012, which differ from prior year FCAT Writing assessments. These changes include judging the total piece of writing in terms of predefined criteria of *focus*, *organization*, *support* and *conventions* with expanded expectations regarding the following: (1) increased attention to the correct use of standard English conventions, and (2) increased attention to the quality of details, requiring use of relevant, logical and plausible support. For additional information regarding the transition from FCAT Writing to FCAT 2.0 Writing, please visit <http://fcap.fldoe.org/fcat2/pdf/14fcat2writing.pdf>.

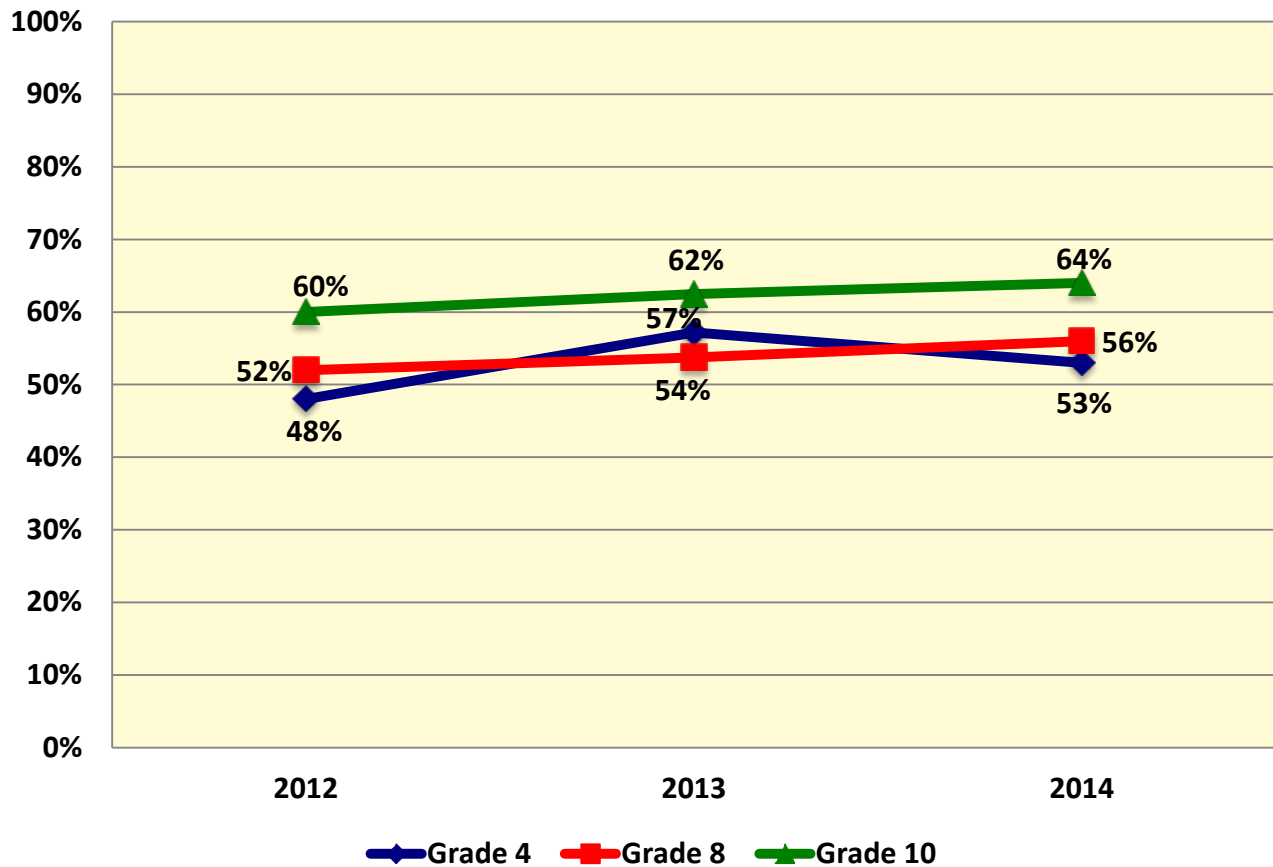
# FCAT 2.0 Writing

## Grades 4, 8 and 10

### NOTES:

- 1) Percentages displayed in this document for 2013 may reflect minor differences from percentages published in last year's press packet. This is because of routine updates made to student demographic data subsequent to last year's release.
- 2) On January 21, 2014, the State Board of Education established passing scores for all FCAT 2.0 assessments, as required by Section 1008.22(3), Florida Statutes. Although the designated passing score is 3.5 or above, state law does not require students to pass FCAT 2.0 Writing in order progress to the next grade level or for graduation purposes.
- 3) On December 19, 2012, the State Board of Education established that the standard for the writing performance component of school grades is the percentage of students scoring 3.5 and above. In 2012, the standard used for the writing performance component of school grades was the percentage of students scoring 3.0 and above. This increase in the standard used for the writing component of school grades should be considered when comparing proficiency data from 2014 and 2013 to 2012.

**Grades 4, 8 and 10**  
**FCAT 2.0 Writing**  
**Percentage Passing (3.5 and Above)**

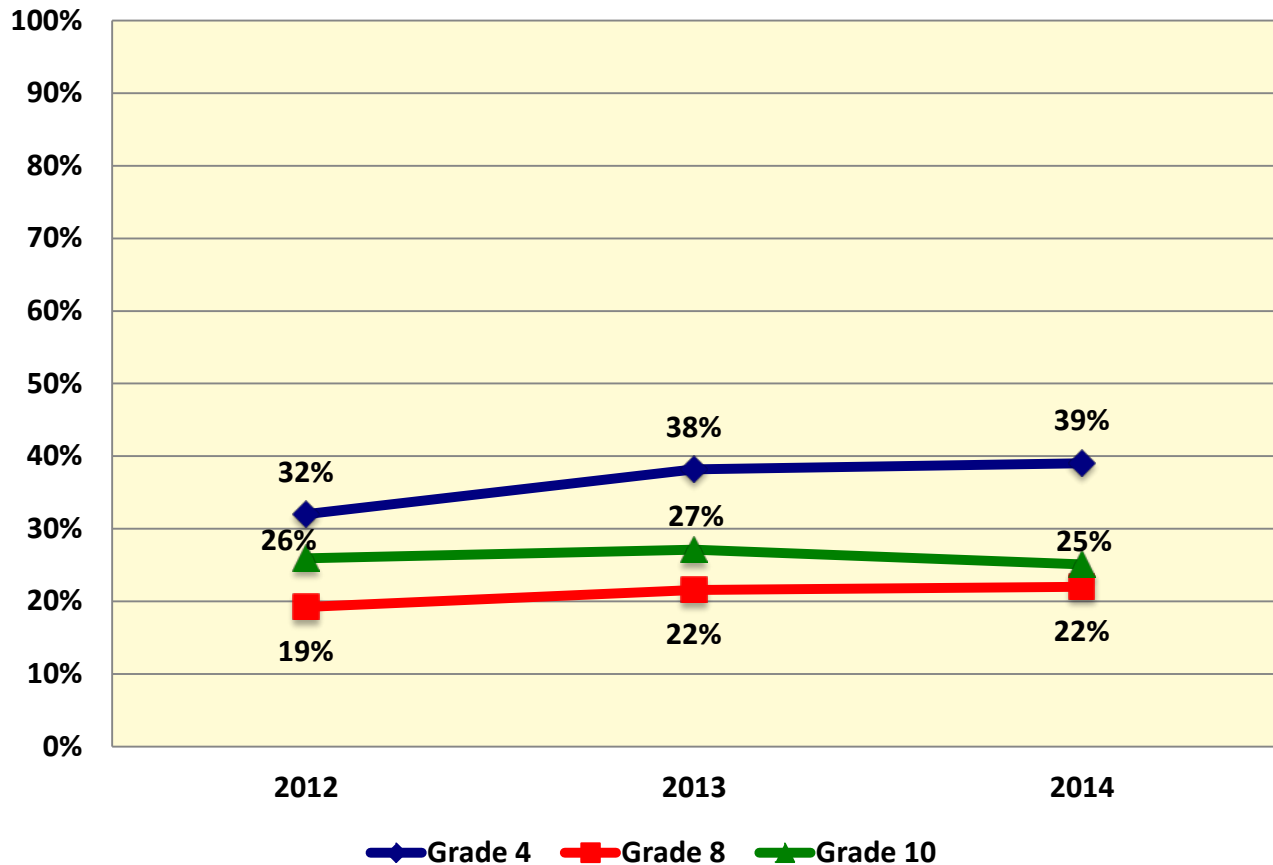


In 2014, the percentage of Florida’s students in grades 8 and 10 scoring at 3.5 and above on FCAT 2.0 Writing increased 2 percentage points in comparison to 2013. Since 2012, the percentage of students in grades 8 and 10 scoring at 3.5 and above has increased by 4 percentage points. In 2014, the percentage of grade 4 students scoring at 3.5 and above decreased by 4 percentage points.

In 2014, 53 percent of grade 4 students were performing at 3.5 and above on FCAT 2.0 Writing. This is a decrease from 57 percent in 2013 and an increase from 48 percent in 2012. In 2014, 56 percent of grade 8 students were performing at 3.5 and above on FCAT 2.0 Writing. This is an increase from 54 percent in 2013 and 52 percent in 2012. In 2014, 64 percent of students in grade 10 were performing at 3.5 and above on FCAT 2.0 Writing. This is an increase from 62 percent in 2013 and 60 percent in 2012.

Source: Bureau of K-12 Student Assessment  
Florida Department of Education, May 2014

**Grades 4, 8 and 10**  
**FCAT 2.0 Writing**  
**Percentage Passing (3.5 and Above)**  
**English Language Learners**

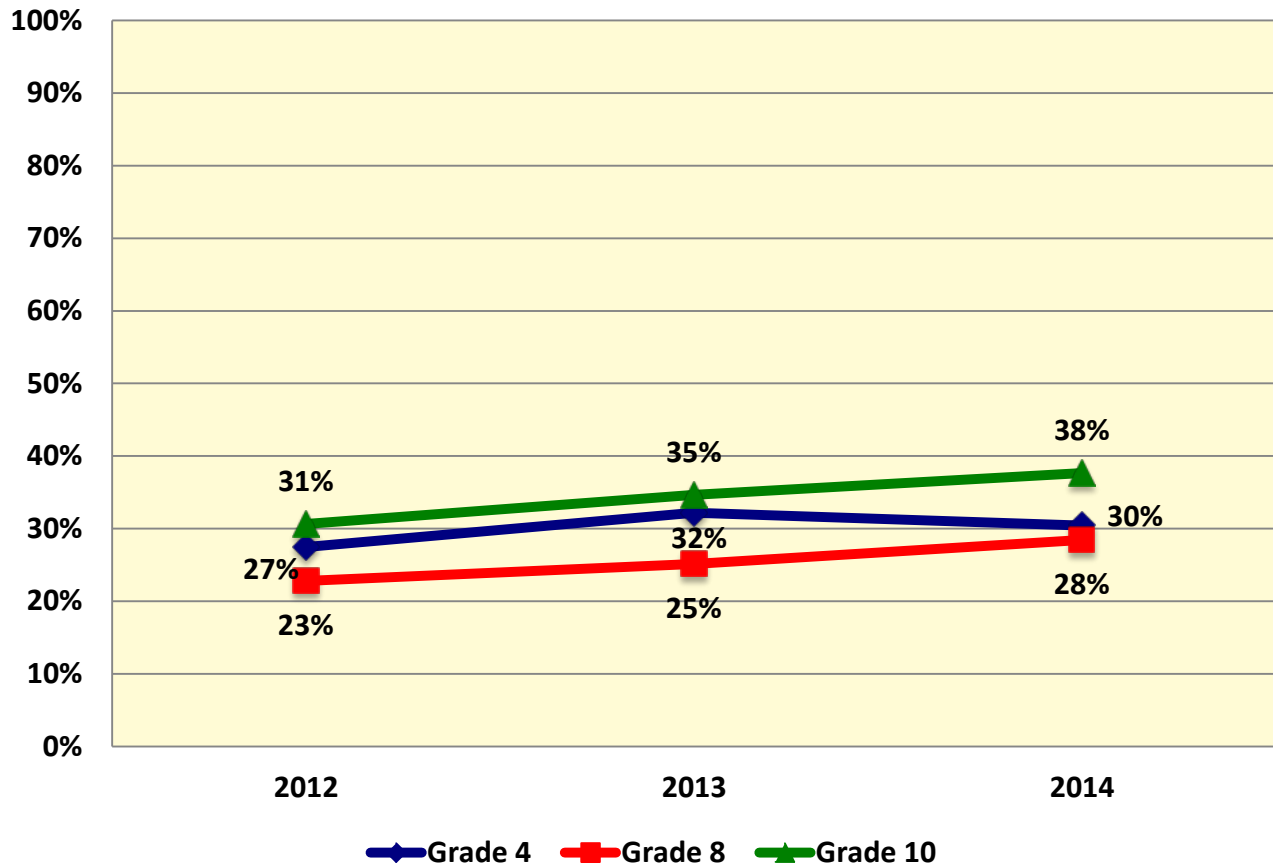


In 2014, the percentage of English Language Learners in grades 4, 8 and 10 scoring at 3.5 and above on FCAT 2.0 Writing increased by 1 percentage point for grade 4, remained constant for grade 8 and decreased by 2 percentage points for grade 10 in comparison to 2013. Since 2012, the percentage of grade 4 English Language Learners scoring 3.5 and above has increased by 7 percentage points.

In 2014, 39 percent of grade 4 English Language Learners were performing at 3.5 and above on FCAT 2.0 Writing. This is an increase from 38 percent in 2013 and 32 percent in 2012. In 2014, 22 percent of grade 8 English Language Learners were performing at 3.5 and above on FCAT 2.0 Writing. This is the same as in 2013 and is an increase from 19 percent in 2012. In 2014, 25 percent of grade 10 English Language Learners were performing at 3.5 and above on FCAT 2.0 Writing. This is a decrease from 27 percent in 2013 and 26 percent in 2012.

Source: PK20 Education Data Warehouse  
Florida Department of Education, May 2014

**Grades 4, 8 and 10**  
**FCAT 2.0 Writing**  
**Percentage Passing (3.5 and Above)**  
**Students with Disabilities**

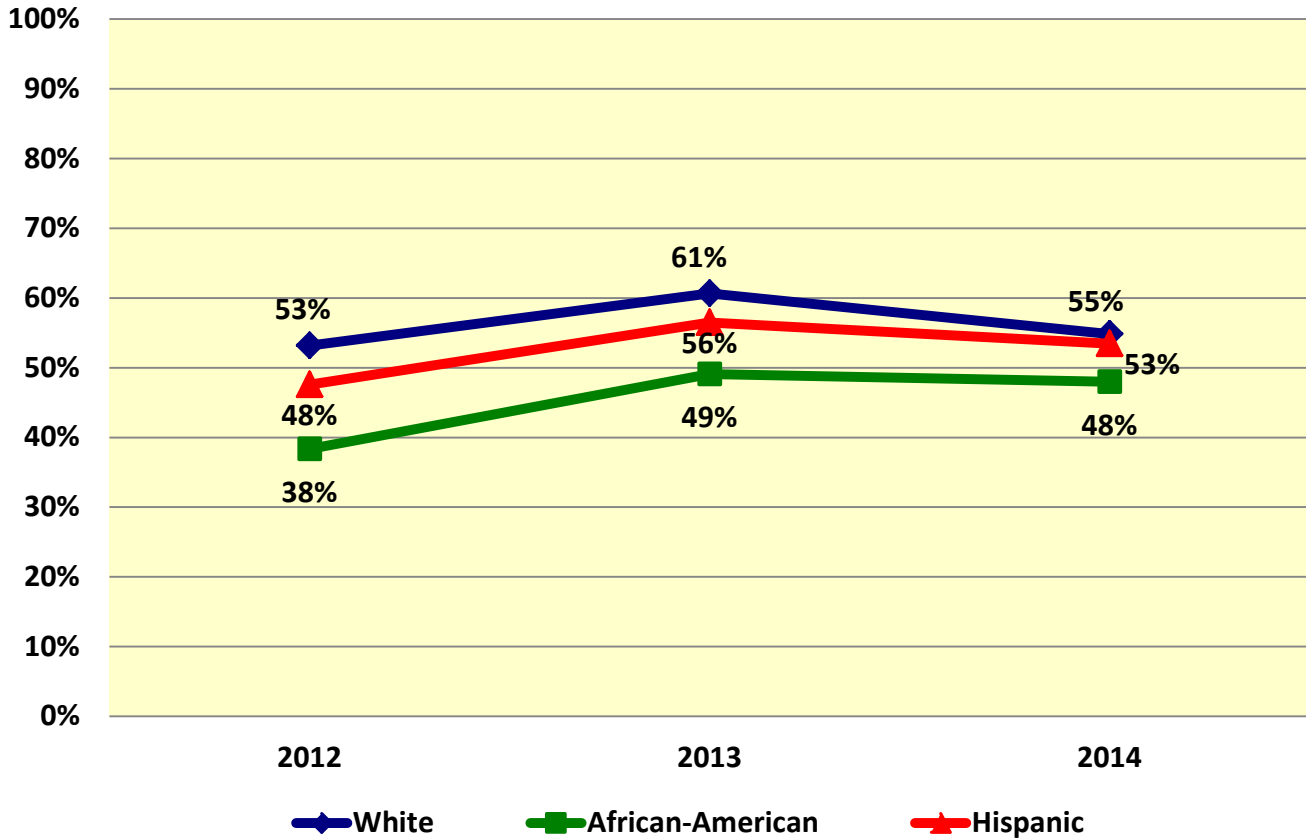


In 2014, the percentage of Students with Disabilities scoring at 3.5 and above increased by 3 percentage points in grades 8 and 10 and decreased by 2 percentage points in grade 4 in comparison to 2013. In comparison to 2012, the percentage of Students with Disabilities scoring at 3.5 and above has increased for each grade tested, with grade 10 having the greatest increase of 7 percentage points.

In 2014, 30 percent of Students with Disabilities in grade 4 were performing at 3.5 and above on FCAT 2.0 Writing. This is a decrease from 32 percent in 2013 and an increase from 27 percent in 2012. In 2014, 28 percent of Students with Disabilities in grade 8 were performing at 3.5 and above on FCAT 2.0 Writing. This is an increase from 25 percent in 2013 and 23 percent in 2012. In 2014, 38 percent of Students with Disabilities in grade 10 were performing at 3.5 and above on FCAT 2.0 Writing. This is an increase from 35 percent in 2013 and 31 percent in 2012.

Source: PK20 Education Data Warehouse  
Florida Department of Education, May 2014

**Grade 4  
FCAT 2.0 Writing  
Percentage Passing (3.5 and Above)**

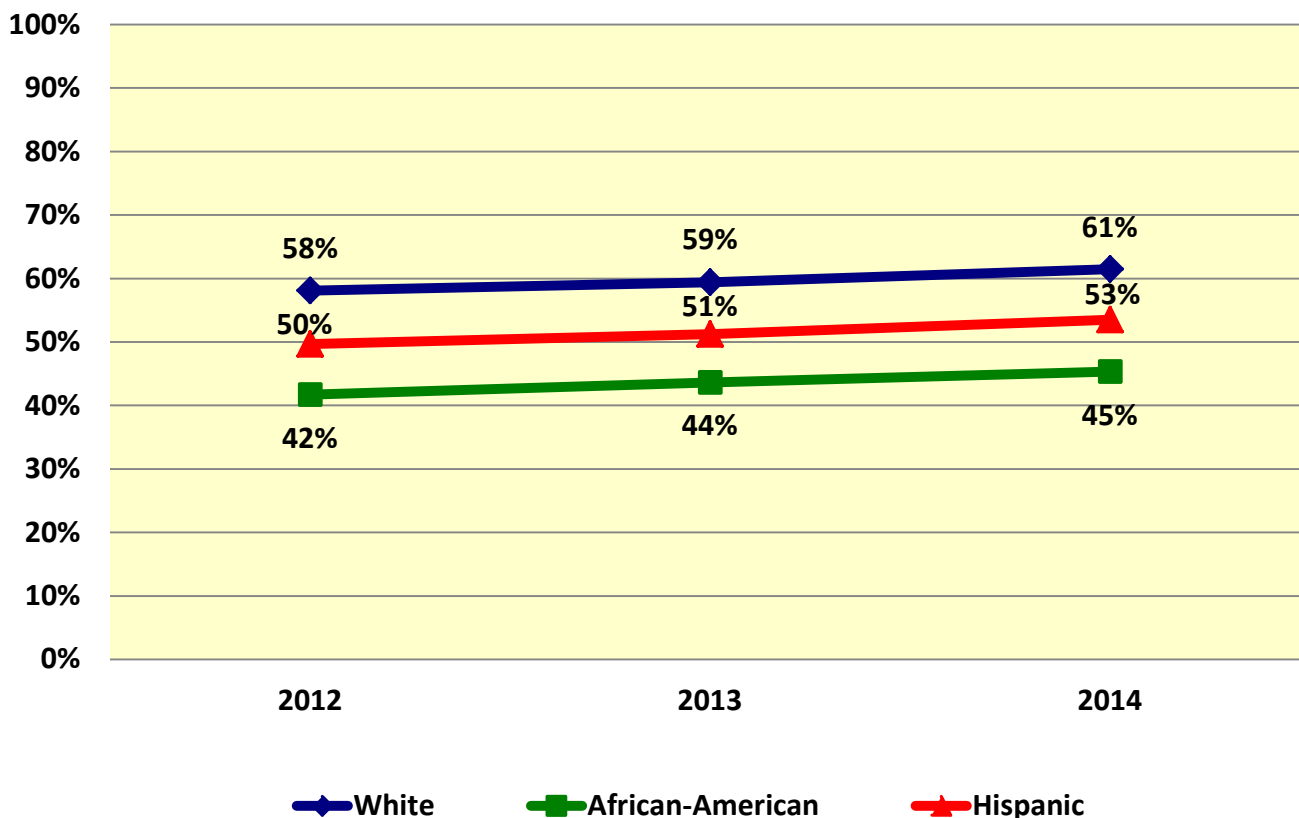


In 2014, the percentage of grade 4 White, African-American and Hispanic students scoring at 3.5 and above decreased in comparison to 2013. In comparison to 2012, the performance of grade 4 White, African-American and Hispanic students performing at 3.5 and above is higher. Additionally, African-American students have had the greatest increase of 10 percentage points, narrowing the achievement gap from 15 percentage points to 7 percentage points in comparison to their White counterparts.

In 2014, 55 percent of White students in grade 4 were performing at 3.5 and above on FCAT 2.0 Writing. This is a decrease from 61 percent in 2013 and an increase from 53 percent in 2012. In 2014, 48 percent of African-American students in grade 4 were performing at 3.5 and above on FCAT 2.0 Writing. This is a decrease from 49 percent in 2013 and an increase from 38 percent in 2012. In 2014, 53 percent of Hispanic students in grade 4 were performing at 3.5 and above on FCAT 2.0 Writing. This is a decrease from 56 percent in 2013 and an increase from 48 percent in 2012.

Source: PK20 Education Data Warehouse  
Florida Department of Education, May 2014

**Grade 8  
FCAT 2.0 Writing  
Percentage Passing (3.5 and Above)**



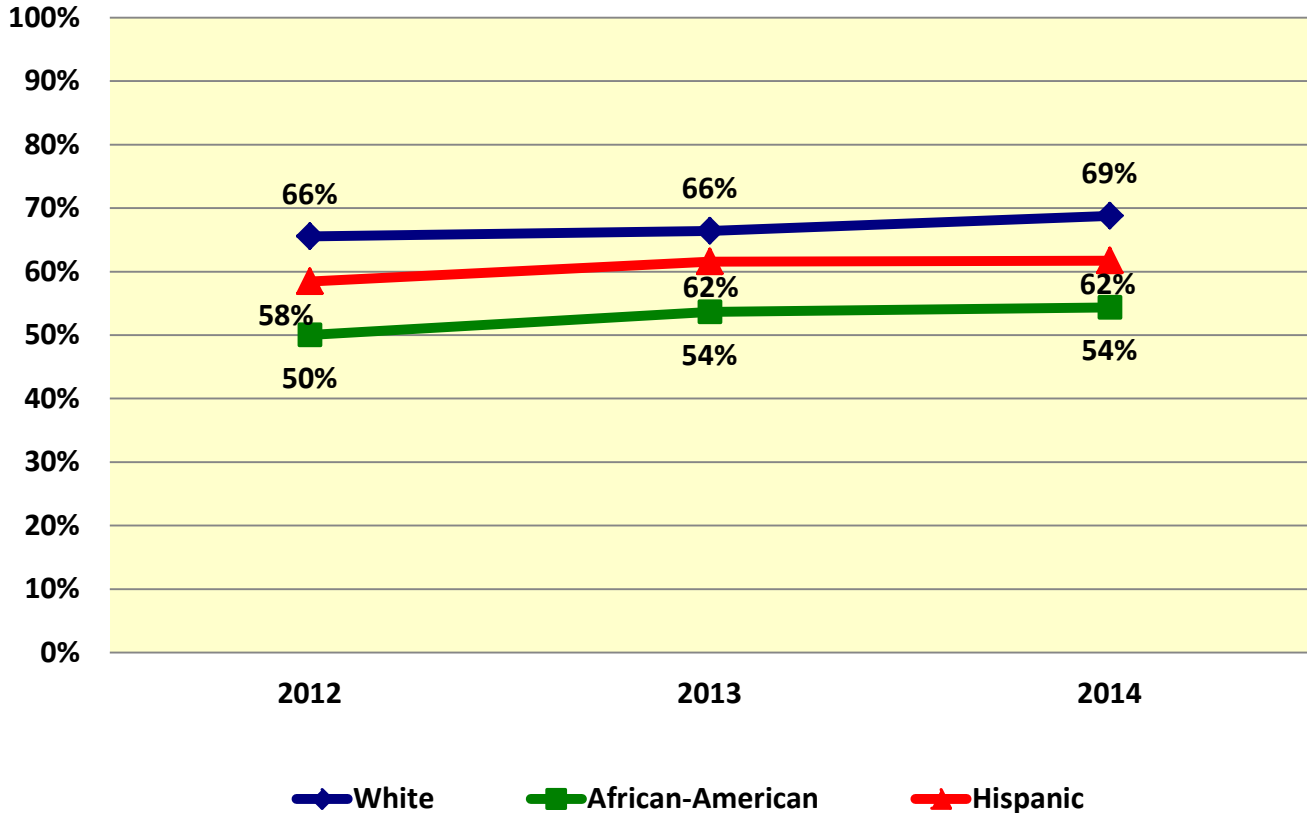
Since 2012, the percentage of grade 8 White, African-American and Hispanic students scoring at 3.5 and above on FCAT 2.0 Writing has increased each school year, with each subgroup increasing a total of 3 percentage points. In 2014, the percentage of grade 8 White and Hispanic students scoring at 3.5 and above increased 2 percentage points, and the percentage of grade 8 African-American students increased 1 percentage point in comparison to 2013.

In 2014, 61 percent of White students in grade 8 were performing at 3.5 and above on FCAT 2.0 Writing. This is an increase from 59 percent in 2013 and 58 percent in 2012. In 2014, 45 percent of African-American students in grade 8 were performing at 3.5 and above on FCAT 2.0 Writing. This is an increase from 44 percent in 2013 and 42 percent in 2012. In 2014, 53 percent of Hispanic students in grade 8 were performing at 3.5 and above on FCAT 2.0 Writing. This is an increase from 51 percent in 2013 and 50 percent in 2012.

Source: PK20 Education Data Warehouse  
Florida Department of Education, May 2014



**Grade 10  
FCAT 2.0 Writing  
Percentage Passing (3.5 and Above)**



In 2014, the percentage of grade 10 White students increased by 3 percentage points in comparison to 2013, and the performance of Hispanic and African-American students remained constant.

In 2014, 69 percent of White students in grade 10 were performing at 3.5 and above on FCAT 2.0 Writing. This is an increase from 66 percent in 2013 and 2012. In 2014, 54 percent of African-American students in grade 10 were performing at 3.5 and above on FCAT 2.0 Writing. This is consistent with 54 percent in 2013 and an increase from 50 percent in 2012. In 2014, 62 percent of Hispanic students in grade 10 were performing at 3.5 and above on FCAT 2.0 Writing. This is consistent with 62 percent in 2013 and an increase from 58 percent in 2012.

Source: PK20 Education Data Warehouse  
Florida Department of Education, May 2014

**Grades 4, 8 and 10  
FCAT 2.0 Writing  
Statewide Comparison Report  
2012 to 2014**

Grade	Year <sup>1</sup>	Type of Writing	Number of Students	Mean Score	Unscorable Percentage	Percentage Earning Each Score Point											Percentage Passing (3.5 and Above) <sup>2</sup>
						1.0	1.5	2.0	2.5	3.0	3.5	4.0	4.5	5.0	5.5	6.0	
4	2012	Narrative	192,753	3.3	1	1	1	6	9	33	21	19	5	2	1	0	48
4	2013	Narrative	192,206	3.4	1	2	1	6	7	26	20	24	8	4	1	0	57
4	2014	Expository	195,308	3.3	0	2	2	7	10	25	19	25	6	2	0	0	53
8	2012	Persuasive	193,706	3.3	1	2	1	8	10	26	19	23	6	3	1	0	52
8	2013	Persuasive	196,719	3.3	0	2	2	8	9	26	19	23	7	3	1	0	54
8	2014	Expository	199,204	3.4	0	2	1	6	8	27	19	23	7	4	1	1	56
10	2012	Persuasive	187,416	3.4	0	1	1	5	8	24	22	26	8	3	1	0	60
10	2013	Expository	191,028	3.5	0	1	1	4	8	23	22	28	8	3	1	0	62
10	2014	Expository	190,535	3.5	0	1	1	4	7	22	23	30	7	3	1	0	64

Source: Bureau of K-12 Student Assessment  
Florida Department of Education, May 2014

<sup>1</sup> 2012 FCAT Writing data are provided in this media packet because the scoring standards were the same in 2012 as in 2013 and 2014; however, caution should be used when comparing 2013 and 2014 results to 2012 results since students had 60 minutes to take the test in 2013 and 2014 and 45 minutes to take the test in 2012.

<sup>2</sup> On January 21, 2014, the State Board of Education established passing scores for all FCAT 2.0 assessments, as required by Section 1008.22(3), Florida Statutes. Although state law does not require students to pass FCAT 2.0 Writing for student progression or graduation purposes, the State Board has established a score of 3.5 as the passing score for the writing assessment. Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

**Grade 4**  
**2014 FCAT 2.0 Writing Results**  
**Percentage Comparison by District**

District	Percentage Passing (3.5 and Above)		Percentage Point Change of Students at 3.5 and Above
	2013	2014	
STATEWIDE TOTALS	57	53	-4
ALACHUA	54	52	-2
BAKER	41	44	3
BAY	48	35	-13
BRADFORD	46	48	2
BREVARD	55	47	-8
BROWARD	64	60	-4
CALHOUN	39	59	20
CHARLOTTE	46	39	-7
CITRUS	53	53	0
CLAY	51	41	-10
COLLIER	53	47	-6
COLUMBIA	52	48	-4
MIAMI DADE	58	53	-5
DESOTO	34	28	-6
DIXIE	54	51	-3
DUVAL	54	45	-9
ESCAMBIA	47	42	-5
FLAGLER	63	63	0
FRANKLIN	46	46	0
GADSDEN	51	55	4
GILCHRIST	48	63	15
GLADES	48	53	5
GULF	44	21	-23
HAMILTON	50	39	-11
HARDEE	44	51	7
HENDRY	39	35	-4
HERNANDO	54	42	-12
HIGHLANDS	58	65	7
HILLSBOROUGH	65	70	5
HOLMES	39	41	2
INDIAN RIVER	60	52	-8
JACKSON	56	46	-10
JEFFERSON	39	39	0
LAFAYETTE	52	54	2
LAKE	51	45	-6
LEE	58	52	-6
LEON	57	61	4
LEVY	42	40	-2

District	Percentage Passing (3.5 and Above)		Percentage Point Change of Students at 3.5 and Above
	2013	2014	
STATEWIDE TOTALS	57	53	-4
LIBERTY	53	54	1
MADISON	41	26	-15
MANATEE	45	54	9
MARION	46	35	-11
MARTIN	63	52	-11
MONROE	50	33	-17
NASSAU	61	60	-1
OKALOOSA	53	45	-8
OKEECHOBEE	42	43	1
ORANGE	55	56	1
OSCEOLA	58	53	-5
PALM BEACH	67	68	1
PASCO	53	38	-15
PINELLAS	60	51	-9
POLK	51	44	-7
PUTNAM	45	40	-5
ST JOHNS	67	51	-16
ST LUCIE	48	55	7
SANTA ROSA	59	52	-7
SARASOTA	67	64	-3
SEMINOLE	56	49	-7
SUMTER	67	52	-15
SUWANNEE	40	37	-3
TAYLOR	39	32	-7
UNION	81	69	-12
VOLUSIA	50	42	-8
WAKULLA	54	49	-5
WALTON	50	50	0
WASHINGTON	33	49	16

Source: Bureau of K-12 Student Assessment  
Florida Department of Education, May 2014

**Grade 8**  
**2014 FCAT 2.0 Writing Results**  
**Percentage Comparison by District**

District	Percentage Passing (3.5 and Above)		Percentage Point Change of Students at 3.5 and Above
	2013	2014	
STATEWIDE TOTALS	54	56	2
ALACHUA	53	48	-5
BAKER	41	60	19
BAY	42	45	3
BRADFORD	25	47	22
BREVARD	54	50	-4
BROWARD	60	64	4
CALHOUN	61	71	10
CHARLOTTE	53	53	0
CITRUS	64	68	4
CLAY	43	47	4
COLLIER	47	53	6
COLUMBIA	31	46	15
MIAMI DADE	49	53	4
DESOTO	32	25	-7
DIXIE	52	47	-5
DUVAL	53	54	1
ESCAMBIA	41	46	5
FLAGLER	49	59	10
FRANKLIN	34	51	17
GADSDEN	40	40	0
GILCHRIST	66	54	-12
GLADES	41	65	24
GULF	63	36	-27
HAMILTON	19	22	3
HARDEE	25	32	7
HENDRY	23	36	13
HERNANDO	47	46	-1
HIGHLANDS	51	48	-3
HILLSBOROUGH	66	68	2
HOLMES	42	50	8
INDIAN RIVER	48	45	-3
JACKSON	54	49	-5
JEFFERSON	49	29	-20
LAFAYETTE	61	72	11
LAKE	44	48	4
LEE	55	52	-3
LEON	54	58	4
LEVY	53	61	8

District	Percentage Passing (3.5 and Above)		Percentage Point Change of Students at 3.5 and Above
	2013	2014	
STATEWIDE TOTALS	54	56	2
LIBERTY	74	65	-9
MADISON	23	19	-4
MANATEE	44	45	1
MARION	37	40	3
MARTIN	64	64	0
MONROE	54	46	-8
NASSAU	62	58	-4
OKALOOSA	49	59	10
OKEECHOBEE	35	33	-2
ORANGE	50	54	4
OSCEOLA	61	56	-5
PALM BEACH	64	65	1
PASCO	48	48	0
PINELLAS	54	55	1
POLK	47	48	1
PUTNAM	37	39	2
ST JOHNS	61	65	4
ST LUCIE	47	56	9
SANTA ROSA	63	62	-1
SARASOTA	66	66	0
SEMINOLE	58	56	-2
SUMTER	72	64	-8
SUWANNEE	31	44	13
TAYLOR	60	67	7
UNION	47	59	12
VOLUSIA	54	55	1
WAKULLA	58	61	3
WALTON	57	58	1
WASHINGTON	48	56	8

Source: Bureau of K-12 Student Assessment  
Florida Department of Education, May 2014

**Grade 10**  
**2014 FCAT 2.0 Writing Results**  
**Percentage Comparison by District**

District	Percentage Passing (3.5 and Above)		Percentage Point Change of Students at 3.5 and Above
	2013	2014	
STATEWIDE TOTALS	62	64	2
ALACHUA	57	63	6
BAKER	65	55	-10
BAY	46	54	8
BRADFORD	28	56	28
BREVARD	67	62	-5
BROWARD	70	69	-1
CALHOUN	54	62	8
CHARLOTTE	57	55	-2
CITRUS	68	68	0
CLAY	56	68	12
COLLIER	55	64	9
COLUMBIA	37	52	15
MIAMI DADE	66	64	-2
DESOTO	48	38	-10
DIXIE	61	58	-3
DUVAL	68	65	-3
ESCAMBIA	54	58	4
FLAGLER	57	63	6
FRANKLIN	36	37	1
GADSDEN	43	45	2
GILCHRIST	57	71	14
GLADES	41	64	23
GULF	43	53	10
HAMILTON	62	71	9
HARDEE	39	43	4
HENDRY	36	43	7
HERNANDO	56	62	6
HIGHLANDS	53	54	1
HILLSBOROUGH	67	66	-1
HOLMES	50	53	3
INDIAN RIVER	55	66	11
JACKSON	47	60	13
JEFFERSON	47	64	17
LAFAYETTE	54	62	8
LAKE	48	57	9
LEE	61	58	-3
LEON	52	63	11
LEVY	42	61	19

District	Percentage Passing (3.5 and Above)		Percentage Point Change of Students at 3.5 and Above
	2013	2014	
STATEWIDE TOTALS	62	64	2
LIBERTY	44	71	27
MADISON	38	41	3
MANATEE	51	58	7
MARION	55	51	-4
MARTIN	61	61	0
MONROE	55	54	-1
NASSAU	55	72	17
OKALOOSA	59	69	10
OKEECHOBEE	42	52	10
ORANGE	54	64	10
OSCEOLA	67	61	-6
PALM BEACH	77	72	-5
PASCO	63	60	-3
PINELLAS	67	61	-6
POLK	54	54	0
PUTNAM	44	44	0
ST JOHNS	66	73	7
ST LUCIE	50	62	12
SANTA ROSA	64	70	6
SARASOTA	69	73	4
SEMINOLE	58	69	11
SUMTER	66	72	6
SUWANNEE	45	52	7
TAYLOR	48	65	17
UNION	54	76	22
VOLUSIA	58	60	2
WAKULLA	41	53	12
WALTON	62	57	-5
WASHINGTON	42	59	17

Source: Bureau of K-12 Student Assessment  
Florida Department of Education, May 2014

The Spring 2014 FCAT 2.0 Writing Press Releases may be accessed at  
[http://www.fldoe.org/news/2014/2014\\_05\\_23.asp](http://www.fldoe.org/news/2014/2014_05_23.asp).