

ST. JOHNS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT TESTING TASK FORCE



Guiding Principles for the 2015 Superintendent's Testing Task Force

In May 2015, Superintendent Dr. Joseph Joyner created a testing task force comprised of parents, teachers and administrators to collect public feedback and recommend a course of action to implement legislative changes to Florida's student assessment program. His guiding principles for the task force included:

- **“Focus on our students.”** Empower their ability to learn, live, work and play.
- **“Actively listen.”** Review and consider survey comments and emails sent from parents, students and teachers.

Defining the Problem:

Survey comments from teachers and parents were reviewed by each member of the task force. The five major areas of concern :

- **Number of tests**
- **Impact on instruction**
- **Alignment** between test items, blueprints and classroom instruction
- **Impact on students** including stress and grades
- **Communication** regarding the testing calendar, content and student results

Recommendations

Number of Assessments

- All state required assessments per grade level status and/or course selection
- Kindergarten: Florida Kindergarten Readiness Screener (FLKRS)
- Grades K-3: Discovery Education assessment twice each year for English language arts and twice each year for math
- Grades 2-5: one combined exam for physical education (PE), music and art
- Grades 6-12:
 - One common final exam in each course not covered by a state or 3rd party assessment (AICE, AP, IB, etc.)
 - A midterm exam at the conclusion of the first semester for all yearlong courses. A common midterm will be provided in selected core courses. (English, math, science, social studies, world languages)
- Accommodations based upon individual student education plans

Impact on Instruction (Logistics)

- State required assessments will continue to be administered per state guidelines
- Only one midterm and one cumulative final exam per yearlong middle and high school course
- Only one cumulative final for single semester, half-credit courses (no midterm)
- An increase in the utilization of paper/pencil testing to minimize disruption
- Midterms and final exams will be contained to the final ten days of the semester

Alignment to Instruction

The SJCSD will develop and implement a process for continuous review and improvement for each district required final exam.

Impact on Student Grades (in courses that utilize a common district final exam)

- **Elementary school**
Discovery Education assessments and single resource exam = 0 %
- **Middle school courses**
Midterm exam = 5% of the semester grade
District final exam = 5% of semester grade
- **High school courses**
Midterm exam = 10% of the semester grade
District common final exam = 10% of semester grade



Communication

- Each school will post a calendar and include the following information for all required assessments (state, district and school-based):
 - Purpose
 - Target audience
 - Length/format (computer-based or paper/pencil)
 - Method of distribution for results
- Parent information meetings offered at various locations throughout the county
- Parent video and supporting documents posted on the SJCS D testing website

2015 – 2016

State & District Required Assessments

KINDERGARTEN-FIRST GRADE:

- Kindergarten Only – Florida Kindergarten Readiness Screener (FLKRS)
- Discovery Education assessments in English language arts and math will be administered in the fall and spring of each year

Eliminated:

District required science, social studies, art, music and physical education End of Course (EOC) Exams

SECOND GRADE

- Discovery Education assessments in English language arts and math will be administered in the fall and spring of each year
- Single, common final exam to include art, music and physical education

Eliminated:

District required science and social studies EOC exams

Two district required resource exams



THIRD GRADE

- Discovery Education assessments in English language arts and math will be administered in the fall and spring of each year
- Florida Standards Assessments (FSA) in English language arts and math
- Single, common final exam to include art, music and physical education

Eliminated:

District required science and social studies EOC exams

Two district required resource exams

FOURTH AND FIFTH GRADE

- Florida Standards Assessments (FSA) for English language arts (separate writing component) and math
- Grade 5 Science FCAT
- Single, common final exam to include art, music and physical education

Eliminated:

District required science and social studies EOC exams

Two district required resource exams



GRADES 6-8

- Florida Standards Assessment (FSA) English language arts (separate writing component) and math
- Grade 7 Civics State EOC
- Grade 8 Science FCAT
- Course specific state EOC and/or program-based third party exam (ex: alg. 1, industry certification)
- District required final exam for courses not addressed through previously stated assessments
- District required midterm exams for all yearlong courses

Eliminated:

District required 1st and 3rd quarter District Formative Assessments (DFA)



GRADES 9-12

- State required grades 9 & 10 FSA assessment in English language arts (separate writing component)
- State required EOCs (algebra 1, geometry, algebra 2, biology, American history)
- Program-based third party exams (ex: industry certification, AP, IB, AICE, dual enrollment, etc.)
- District required cumulative final exams for courses not addressed though previously stated assessments
- District required midterm exams for all yearlong courses (Midterm not required for half-credit, semester length courses)

Eliminated:

District required 1st and 3rd quarter DFAs

Grade 11 state required Post-Secondary Education Readiness Test (PERT)

Grade 11 state required FSA English language arts

At all grade levels, the actual number of assessments will be dependent on a student's individual program of study.



Next Steps

July 27—Dr. Joyner shares the plan with school-based administrators

Pre-Planning—Principals share the plan with teachers

August 4—School Board Workshop

First day of school—District and school websites post the plan

Fall of 2015—School-based open houses – Video presented to parents, flyer distributed

Fall of 2015—Parent information nights in various locations throughout the county

First day through February 2016—Alignment teams work to improve district exams