

St. Johns County
School District
2022 - 2023

PARENT RESOURCE
GUIDE



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St. Johns County School District Core Values



We believe that . . .

Trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship are essential to the wellbeing of individuals and society.

All individuals have intrinsic value.

Every individual can contribute something of worth to society.

Individuals are responsible and accountable for their choices and decisions.

In order to grow and thrive, individuals need caring relationships and a nurturing environment.

Supportive family relationships are the foundation of the community.

High expectations lead to higher performance, which, in turn, empowers the individual and strengthens society.

Continuous learning is a lifelong process that is essential to a productive and enriched life.

A safe and orderly environment is conducive to learning.

The St. Johns County School System is recognized throughout Florida for its innovative programming, student accomplishments and professional staff. The District's success is due to its commitment to excellence in academics plus its commitment to character development.

The Six Pillars of Character (Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring and Citizenship) are found in the district's Core Values. Individual worth and high expectations for all students are also part of this value system.

St. Johns County schools and community partners have come together with a common approach in an effort to say that children matter, values matter, character matters and academic excellence matters in our community and in our country. These principles are embodied in the district's visionary Mission Statement:

The St. Johns County School District will inspire good character and a passion for lifelong learning in all students, creating educated and caring contributors to the world.

Letter from the Superintendent

**“For children, parents are the vital link
between the classroom and society.”**

Dear Parents and Community Partners:

Children thrive when their environment is safe, secure, and supportive of education. Whether at home or in the classroom, adult involvement and encouragement have an enormously positive impact on a child’s learning process. For children, parents are the vital link between the classroom and society. As Superintendent of St. Johns County School District, I encourage you to take an active role in your children’s school career. The Parent Resource Guide was written to assist parents in participating in the lives of their children at school.

The Parent Resource Guide:

- defines terms commonly used by educators.
- gives examples of skills your children will be taught in each grade level.
- explains what happens if your child falls behind and how s/he is assisted to catch up.
- suggests what parents as partners in the learning process can do at home.

I encourage you to use the guide as a starting point for extended communication with teachers, school and district administrators, and most importantly, with your children. Open your children’s book bags and talk with them about what they are learning. Review their schoolwork and talk to their teachers by phone, email or face-to-face. Always ask questions and stay involved.

Remember that as your children grow older you may have to take the initiative to maintain communication with your children. We know that families have the greatest influence on their children’s academic achievement in school and throughout life. When parents talk to their children about school, expect them to do well, help them plan for college and career, and make sure that out-of-school activities are constructive, their children tend to do well in school and in life. Students with involved parents, irrespective of income or background, are more likely to enjoy school, perform better in school, and stay in school longer.

I applaud you for making your children’s education a family priority.

Sincerely,



Tim Forson
Superintendent of Schools

Facts about St. Johns County School District



**St. Johns County
Superintendent of Schools**

SCHOOLS

- 18 Elementary Schools (K-5)
- 7 K-8 Schools
- 7 Middle Schools (6-8)
- 9 High Schools (9-12)
- 2 Alternative Centers (6-12)
- 3 Charter Schools
- 2 Juvenile Justice Facilities
- 1 Virtual School (K-12)
- 1 Technical College

The St. Johns County School District is accredited as a quality school system by AdvancED, the internationally recognized accrediting agency for K-12 schools.

Class Size (Student-Teacher ratio)

- 1:14.84 (PK-3)
- 1:17.73 (4-8)
- 1:18.89 (9-12)

STUDENTS

St. Johns County School District had 48,816 students as of June, 2022.

Race:

- White—81.16%
- African American or Black—6.59%
- Asian—5.31%
- Multi-Racial—6.27%
- Hawaiian or Pacific Islander—0.25%
- Native American or Alaskan —0.42%

Ethnicity:

- Hispanic—11.95%
- Non-Hispanic—83.81%
- Undeclared—4.24%

Student body—114 different countries, 79 languages
 Exceptional education students – 4,195 gifted students and 7,868 students with disabilities who have learning or intellectual disabilities, emotional/behavioral or autism spectrum disorders, speech/language, sensory, orthopedic or other health impairments and developmental delays. An additional 3,510 students receive accommodations through 504 plans.

SCHOOL GRADES

For the 2021-2022 school year, St. Johns County had 29 “A” schools, 7 “B” schools, and 3 “C” schools.

St. Johns County School District has received a grade of “A” each year since 2010 and is first in the state out of 67 districts in total school accountability points for the past nine years. For up-to-date information on school grades, see <http://schoolgrades.fldoe.org/>.

DISTRICT ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

Florida Standards Assessment State Rankings

State Rank English Language Arts (2022)			
3 rd Grade	1st	7 th Grade	1st
4 th Grade	1st	8 th Grade	1st
5 th Grade	1st	9 th Grade	1st
6 th Grade	1st	10 th Grade	1st

State Rank in Math (2022)			
3 rd Grade	1st	6 th Grade	2nd
4 th Grade	2nd	7 th Grade	1 st tied
5 th Grade	2nd	8 th Grade	4th

State Rank in Science (2022)	
5 th Grade	2nd
8 th Grade	1st

End-of-Course (EOC) Exams (2022)	
Civics	2nd
Algebra I	1st
Geometry	1st
Biology I	1st
U.S. History	1st

ACT – Readiness for College (2021) – 42% of St. Johns County graduates ready in all four areas tested (math, reading, science and writing) compared to the state average of 25%

SAT (2021) – 1140, above both the state average of 993 and national average of 1060

ACT (2021) – 23.2, above both state average of 20.4 and national average of 20.3

AP Exams (2021) –68.9% received college credit

Graduation rate (2020-2021) – 95.0% based on the Federal graduation rate, compared to state average of 90.1%

Dropout rate (2020-2021)– 5%, less than the state average of 9.9%

National Merit Semifinalists (2022) – 27 seniors placed in top 1% on the PSAT

School Board

School Board meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at the School Board Administration Center. Workshops are held on the first and fourth Tuesday of the month. (Please check the district website for up-to-date meeting and workshop information.)

To contact a school board member, you may call the School Board Executive Secretary @ 904-547-7510, or e-mail a member directly.

	<p>Beverly Slough beverly.slough@stjohns.k12.fl.us Board Vice Chair</p> <p>District 1 Term: 2018-2022</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bartram Trail High School • Creeside High School • Cunningham Creek Elementary School • Durbin Creek Elementary • Freedom Crossing Academy • Fruit Cove Middle School • Hickory Creek Elementary School • Julington Creek Elementary School • Patriot Oaks Academy • Switzerland Point Middle School
	<p>Anthony E. Coleman Sr. anthony.coleman@stjohns.k12.fl.us</p> <p>District 2 Term: 2020-2024</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mill Creek Academy • Pacetti Bay Middle School • Picolata Crossing Elementary School • R. J. Murray Middle School • South Woods Elementary School • Timberlin Creek Elementary School • Tocoi Creek High School • Wards Creek Elementary School • Webster Elementary School • Hastings Juvenile Center
	<p>Bill Mignon bill.mignon@stjohns.k12.fl.us</p> <p>District 3 Term: 2018-2022</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John A. Crookshank Elementary School • Gamble Rogers Middle School • Osceola Elementary School • Otis A. Mason Elementary School • Pedro Menendez High School • W. D. Hartley Elementary School
	<p>Kelly Barrera kelly.barrera@stjohns.k12.fl.us Board Chair</p> <p>District 4 Term: 2018-2022</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alice B. Landrum Middle School • Allen D. Nease High School • Ocean Palms Elementary School • Palm Valley Academy • Pine Island Academy • Ponte Vedra High School • PV/PV-Rawlings Elementary School • Valley Ridge Academy
	<p>Patrick Canan patrick.canan@stjohns.k12.fl.us</p> <p>District 5 Term: 2020-2024</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beachside High School • First Coast Technical College • Gaines Alternative School at Evelyn Hamblen Ctr. • Ketterlinus Elementary School • Liberty Pines Academy • Palencia Elementary School • R. B. Hunt Elementary School • Sebastian Middle School • St. Augustine High School • St. Johns Technical High School • St. Johns Virtual School • Transitions School at Evelyn Hamblen Center • Juvenile Justice Center (DJJ)

District Department Phone

Numbers

Reception Desk	904-547-7500
Board Members' Office	904-547-7510
Superintendent's Office	904-547-7502
Chief of Staff	904-547-7520
Accountability and Intervention Services	904-547-8922
Business and Fiscal Services	904-547-7650
Career and Technical Education	904-547-4870
Community Relations	904-547-7517
Curriculum and Instruction	904-547-7503
Early Childhood	904-547-8954
English for Speakers of Other Languages	904-547-8924
Exceptional Student Education	904-547-7672
Federal Programs	904-547-8928
Food Services	904-547-8931
Guidance and Choice	904-547-7754
Head Start	904-547-8957
Human Resources	904-547-7600
Information Technology	904-547-3920
Instructional Services-Elementary	904-547-7541
Instructional Services-Secondary	904-547-7558
Instructional Resources and Media Services	904-547-3947
Leadership Development	904-547-3981
Maintenance	904-547-3707
Operations	904-547-8150
Planning and Accountability	904-547-8911
Pre-K Clinic	904-547-8958
Purchasing	904-547-8941
Risk Management	904-547-7641
RSVP/Volunteer Services	904-547-3952
Student Support Services	904-547-7724
Transportation	904-547-7810

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School Directory

BARTRAM TRAIL HIGH SCHOOL (9-12)

Chris Phelps, Principal
7399 Longleaf Pine Parkway, St. Johns, FL 32259-9104
904-547-8340 (Phone) 904-547-8359 (FAX)

BEACHSIDE HIGH SCHOOL (9-11)

Greg Bergamasco, Principal
1070 Beachwalk Blvd, St. Johns, FL 32259
904-547-4400 (Phone) 904-547-4405 (FAX)

CREEKSIDE HIGH SCHOOL (9-12)

Steve McCormick, Principal
100 Knights Lane, St. Johns, FL 32259-9104
904-547-7300 (Phone) 904-547-7305 (FAX)

JOHN A. CROOKSHANK ELEMENTARY (PK-5)

Patrick Roach, Principal
1455 North Whitney Street, St. Augustine, FL 32084-2499
904-547-7840 (Phone) 904-547-7845 (FAX)

CUNNINGHAM CREEK ELEMENTARY (PK-5)

Katherine O'Connell, Principal
1205 Roberts Road, St. Johns, FL 32259-8927
904-547-7860 (Phone) 904-547-7854 (FAX)

DURBIN CREEK ELEMENTARY (PK-5)

Ashley McCormick, Principal
4100 Racetrack Road, St. Johns, FL 32259-2083
904-547-3880 (Phone) 904-547-3885 (FAX)

FIRST COAST TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Chris Force, Principal
2980 Collins Avenue, St. Augustine, FL 32084-1919
904-547-3282 (Phone) 904-547-3506 (FAX)

FREEDOM CROSSING ACADEMY (K-8)

Gina Fonseca, Principal
1365 Shetland Drive, St. Johns, FL 32259
904-547-4230 (Phone) 904-547-4235 (FAX)

FRUIT COVE MIDDLE SCHOOL (6-8)

Kelly Jacobson, Principal
3180 Racetrack Road, St. Johns, FL 32259
904-547-7880 (Phone) 904-547-7885 (FAX)

GAINES ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL AND THE EVELYN HAMBLEN CENTER (K-12)

Dr. Craig Davis, Principal
1 Christopher Street, St. Augustine, FL 32084-4056
904-547-8560 (Phone) 904-547-7145 (FAX)

W. D. HARTLEY ELEMENTARY (K-5)

Nicole Appelquist, Principal
260 Cacique Drive, St. Augustine, FL 32086-8827
904-547-8400 (Phone) 904-547-8385 (FAX)

HICKORY CREEK ELEMENTARY (PK-5)

Yvette Cubero-Gonzalez, Principal
235 Hickory Creek Trail, St. Johns, FL 32259-8368
904-547-7450 (Phone) 904-547-7455 (FAX)

R. B. HUNT ELEMENTARY (K-5)

Amanda Garman, Principal
125 Magnolia Drive, St. Augustine, FL 32080-4684
904-547-7960 (Phone) 904-547-7955 (FAX)

JULINGTON CREEK ELEMENTARY (K-5)

Jeanette Murphy, Principal
2316 Racetrack Road, St. Johns, FL 32259-4299
904-547-7980 (Phone) 904-547-7985 (FAX)

KETTERLINUS ELEMENTARY (K-5)

Kathy Tucker, Principal
67 Orange Street, St. Augustine, FL 32084-3565
904-547-8540 (Phone) 904-547-8554 (FAX)

ALICE B. LANDRUM MIDDLE SCHOOL (6-8)

Guy Harris, Principal
230 Landrum Lane, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082-3831
904-547-8410 (Phone) 904-547-8415 (FAX)

LIBERTY PINES ACADEMY (K-8)

Donny Hoessler, Principal
10901 Russell Sampson Road, St. Johns, FL 32259-8927
904-547-7900 (Phone) 904-547-7905 (FAX)

OTIS A. MASON ELEMENTARY (PK - 5)

Monique Keaton, Principal
207 Mason Manatee Way, St. Augustine, FL 32086-9373
904-547-8440 (Phone) 904-547-8445 (FAX)

PEDRO MENENDEZ HIGH SCHOOL (9-12)

Dr. Clay Carmichael, Principal
600 State Road 206 West, St. Augustine, FL 32086-7968
904-547-8660 (Phone) 904-547-8675 (FAX)

MILL CREEK ACADEMY (K-8)

Dr. Ken Goodwin, Principal
3750 International Golf Parkway, St. Augustine, FL 32092
904-547-3720 (Phone) 904-547-3730 (FAX)

R. J. MURRAY MIDDLE SCHOOL (6-8)

Travis Brown, Principal
150 North Holmes Blvd., St. Augustine, FL 32084-0930
904-547-8470 (Phone) 904-547-8475 (FAX)

ALLEN D. NEASE HIGH SCHOOL (9-12)

Lisa Kunze, Principal
10550 Ray Road, Ponte Vedra, FL 32081-8800
904-547-8300 (Phone) 904-547-8305 (FAX)

OCEAN PALMS ELEMENTARY (PK - 5)

Tiffany Cantwell, Principal
355 Landrum Lane, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082-3828
904-547-3760 (Phone) 904-547-3775 (FAX)

OSCEOLA ELEMENTARY (PK - 5)

Jessley Hathaway, Principal
1605 Osceola Elementary Road, St. Augustine, FL 32084
904-547-3780 (Phone) 904-547-3795 (FAX)

PACETTI BAY MIDDLE SCHOOL (6-8)

Ted Banton, Principal
245 Meadowlark Lane, St. Augustine, FL 32092-3467
904-547-8760 (Phone) 904-547-8765 (FAX)

PALENCIA ELEMENTARY (K-5)

Catherine Goodrich, Principal
355 Palencia Village Drive, St. Augustine, FL 32095
904-547-4010 (Phone) 904-547-4015 (FAX)

PALM VALLEY ACADEMY (K-8)

Dr. Joy Reichenberg, Principal
700 Bobcat Lane, Ponte Vedra, FL 32081
904-547-4200 (Phone) 904-547-4205 (FAX)

PATRIOT OAKS ACADEMY (K-8)

Allison Olson, Principal
475 Longleaf Pine Parkway, St. Johns, FL 32259
904-547-4050 (Phone) 904-547-4055 (FAX)

PICOLATA CROSSING ELEMENTARY (PK-5)

Brian Morgan, Principal
2675 Pacetti Road, St. Augustine, FL 32092
904-547-4160 (Phone) 904-547-4165 (FAX)

PINE ISLAND ACADEMY (K-8)

Amanda Riedl, Principal
805 Pine Island Road, St. Augustine, FL 32095
904-547-4300 (Phone) 904-547-4305

PONTE VEDRA HIGH SCHOOL (9-12)

Dr. Fred Oberkehr, Principal
460 Davis Park Road, Ponte Vedra, FL 32081-7968
904-547-7350 (Phone) 904-547-7355 (FAX)

PVPV/RAWLINGS ELEMENTARY (K-5)

Dr. Jesse Gates, Principal
630 Hwy. A1A North, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082-2746
PVPV 904-547-3820 (Phone) 904-547-3825 (FAX)
Rawlings 904-547-8570 (Phone) 904-547-8575 (FAX)

GAMBLE ROGERS MIDDLE SCHOOL (6-8)

Brian Wilson, Principal
6250 U. S. 1 South, St. Augustine, FL 32086-7685
904-547-8700 (Phone) 904-547-8705 (FAX)

ST. AUGUSTINE HIGH SCHOOL (9-12)

Dr. DeArmas Graham, Principal
3205 Varella Avenue, St. Augustine, FL 32084
904-547-8530 (Phone) 904-547-8535 (FAX)

ST. AUGUSTINE PUBLIC MONTESSORI

deAnne DeLeon, Director
7 A Williams Street, St. Augustine, FL 32084
904-342-5350 (Phone) 904-342-5354 (FAX)

ST. JOHNS TECHNICAL HIGH SCH. (9-12)

Dr. Nigel D. Pillay, Principal
2970 Collins Ave., St. Augustine, FL 32084
904-547-8500 (Phone) 904-547-8505 (FAX)

ST. JOHNS VIRTUAL SCHOOL (6-12)

Ryan Erskine, Principal
2980 Collins Avenue, St. Augustine, FL 32084
904-547-8080 (Phone) 904-547-8085 (FAX)

SEBASTIAN MIDDLE SCHOOL (6-8)

Kirstie Gabaldon, Principal
2955 Lewis Speedway, St. Augustine, FL 32084
904-547-3840 (Phone) 904-547-3845 (FAX)

SOUTH WOODS ELEMENTARY (PK-5)

Angela Rodgers, Principal
4750 SR 206 W., Elkton, FL 32033-3608
904-547-8610 (Phone) 904-547-8615 (FAX)

SWITZERLAND PT. MIDDLE SCHOOL (6-8)

Linda Carnall, Principal
777 Greenbriar Road, St. Johns, FL 32259-8336
904-547-8650 (Phone) 904-547-8645 (FAX)

TIMBERLIN CREEK ELEMENTARY (PK-5)

Linda Edel, Principal
555 Pine Tree Lane, St. Augustine, FL 32092-3207
904-547-7400 (Phone) 904-547-7405 (FAX)

TOCOI CREEK HIGH SCHOOL (9-12)

Jay Willets, Principal
11200 St. Johns Parkway, St. Augustine, FL 32092
904-547-4260 (Phone) 904-547-4265 (FAX)

VALLEY RIDGE ACADEMY (K-8)

Angela Fuller, Principal
105 Greenleaf Drive, Ponte Vedra, FL 32081
904-547-4090 (Phone) 904-547-4095 (FAX)

WARDS CREEK ELEMENTARY (PK-5)

Kevin Klein, Principal
6555 State Road 16, St. Augustine, FL 32092-2110
904-547-8730 (Phone) 904-547-8735 (FAX)

WEBSTER ELEMENTARY (PK-5)

Bethany Groves, Principal
420 N. Orange St., St. Augustine, FL 32084-0665
904-547-3860 (Phone) 904-547-3865 (FAX)

THERAPEUTIC LEARNING CENTER

Paulette Hudson, Director
2109 Arc Drive, St. Augustine, FL 32084
904-824-8932 (Phone) 904-824-8063 (FAX)

ST. JOHNS COMMUNITY CAMPUS (ARC)

Lynne Funcheon, Director
62 Cuna St., St. Augustine, FL 32084
904-209-6842 (Phone) 904-824-8063

FLORIDA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF & THE BLIND - STATE SCHOOL

Traci Cascio Snow, President
207 N. San Marco Ave. St. Augustine, FL 32084
904-827-2200 (Phone) 904-827-2325 (FAX)

Character Counts! Program

CHARACTER COUNTS! is an educational framework for teaching universal values and a national coalition of organizations that support each other. The result is a culture change in your school, business or organization. CHARACTER COUNTS! improves the lives of the adults who teach it, the communities that embrace it and the students who make better choices as a result. St. Johns County Schools adopted the CHARACTER COUNTS! Initiative in 1998 to help students learn about the Six Pillars of Character – trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship – and develop strong character traits.

Each month one of the pillars is featured:

- August – All pillars
- September – Fairness
- October – Responsibility
- November – Citizenship
- December – All Pillars
- January – Respect
- February – Caring
- March – Trustworthiness
- April – All Pillars
- May – Citizenship (Emphasis on Patriotism)



Trustworthiness Be honest ■ Don't deceive, cheat or steal ■ Be reliable – do what you say you will do ■ Have the courage to do the right thing ■ Build a good reputation ■ Be loyal – stand by your family, friends and country

Respect Treat others with respect; follow the Golden Rule ■ Be tolerant and accepting of differences ■ Use good manners, not bad language ■ Be considerate of the feelings of others ■ Don't threaten, hit or hurt anyone ■ Deal peacefully with anger, insults and disagreements

Responsibility Do what you are supposed to do ■ Plan ahead · Persevere: keep on trying! ■ Always do your best ■ Use self-control ■ Be self-disciplined ■ Think before you act — consider the consequences ■ Be accountable for your words, actions, and attitudes ■ Set a good example for others

Fairness Play by the rules ■ Take turns and share ■ Be open-minded; listen to others. Don't take advantage of others ■ Don't blame others carelessly ■ Treat all people fairly

Caring Be kind ■ Be compassionate and show you care ■ Express gratitude ■ Forgive others ■ Help people in need ■ Be charitable and altruistic

Citizenship Do your share to make your school and community better ■ Cooperate ■ Get involved in community affairs ■ Stay informed; vote ■ Be a good neighbor ■ Obey laws and rules ■ Respect authority ■ Protect the environment ■ Volunteer

Social Emotional Learning

Social and emotional learning (SEL) is the process through which children and adults understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions.

CASEL's Framework – Five Core Competencies <https://casel.org/>

Self-awareness: The ability to accurately recognize one's emotions and thoughts and their influence on behavior. This includes accurately assessing one's strengths and limitations and possessing a well-grounded sense of confidence and optimism.

Self-management: The ability to regulate one's emotions, thoughts, and behaviors effectively in different situations. This includes managing stress, controlling impulses, motivating oneself, and setting and working toward achieving personal and academic goals.

Social awareness: The ability to take the perspective of and empathize with others from diverse backgrounds and cultures, to understand social and ethical norms for behavior, and to recognize family, school, and community resources and supports.

Relationship skills: The ability to establish and maintain healthy and rewarding relationships with diverse individuals and groups. This includes communicating clearly, listening actively, cooperating, resisting inappropriate social pressure, negotiating conflict constructively, and seeking and offering help when needed. improve

Responsible decision-making: The ability to make constructive and respectful choices about personal behavior and social interactions based on consideration of ethical standards, safety concerns, social norms, the realistic evaluation of consequences of various actions, and the well-being of self and others.



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Impact of Social Emotional Learning



Fortify FL

FortifyFL is a suspicious activity reporting tool that allows students or parents to instantly relay information to appropriate law enforcement agencies and school officials. By accessing FortifyFL at <https://getfortifyfl.com/> or <https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/blog/fortifyfl-app/>, individuals can provide a description of the threat, share pics and videos and optionally submit their contact information.

FortifyFL was created and funded by the 2018 Florida Legislature as part of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act. The Office of Attorney General, Department of Education and Florida Department of Law Enforcement coordinated its development and rollout.



Health Prevention Education

St. Johns County School District is committed to providing developmentally appropriate education and prevention programs to all students. Strategies used in our district for delivery of prevention education at the elementary, middle, and high school levels include classroom instruction, prevention programs, character development, guest speakers, community agency collaboration, staff training and parent awareness.

Elementary school students receive grade appropriate health and drug prevention education, which is integrated into the curriculum throughout the year. In middle school, students learn the effects and consequences of alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use through the various strategies listed above. As part of the required instruction for grades 6 to 12 s.1003.42 (3) students also learn about disease prevention and abstinence based reproductive health, which includes the transmission and prevention of sexually transmitted diseases (STD). In middle school the instruction is provided in two class periods in 7th grade science. In high school disease prevention and abstinence based reproductive health is taught in the required class Health Opportunities through Physical Education (HOPE), which is a comprehensive health and personal fitness class. All instructional materials for these courses are approved annually by the school board. **Parents have the option to formally request in writing to review the instructional materials s. 1006.29 (2) for reproductive health and disease prevention or to exempt their child from these lessons.**

Bullying prevention education is integrated into the curriculum at all grade levels and taught throughout the year by teachers, school staff, district staff and approved community agencies. Instruction includes identifying, preventing, and responding to bullying and harassment. Instruction on recognizing behaviors that lead to bullying and harassment and taking appropriate action based on those observations is also included.

Cyberbullying and Internet Safety education are addressed through curriculum integration at all grade levels.

The state-mandated prevention education for teen dating violence abuse is taught to secondary students through curriculum integration, presentations, and approved speakers. The characteristics of healthy and unhealthy relationships and identifying and responding to danger signals of dating violence are included in this curriculum.

For more information on prevention resources and the district policy prohibiting bullying and harassment including how to report bullying, please refer to the Safe and Drug Free Schools' website at <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/sdfs/>.

Enrolling Your Child in School

How old does my child have to be to attend school?

Under Florida state law, a child must be 5 years old on or before September 1 to enter kindergarten. To enter first grade, a child must be 6 years old on or before September 1 and must have successfully completed kindergarten.

How do I know which school my child will attend?

Our district website <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/zoning/> provides a link to an Attendance Zone Locator. Our Student Services staff can also assist you. Parents with questions about zoning are encouraged to call our office at 904-547-7598.

How do I enroll my child in school?

You may register your child online at <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/student/enrollment/>. For additional information contact your zoned school.

What paperwork will I need to enroll my child?

- **Three proofs of residence** – A current mortgage statement, lease or rent agreement, a current utility bill and one other current bill or statement showing your address. For more information, visit <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/student/residency>.
- **Health Records** – Children entering a Florida public school for the first time must have an up-to-date Florida Certificate of Immunization (HRS FORM 680) and a copy of a physical examination done within one year of enrollment. For information about immunizations required at each grade level, parents are encouraged to call the St. Johns County Health Department. Current immunization requirements for SJCS D students can be found at <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/health/immunizations/>.
- **Birth Certificate** – A certified copy of a birth certificate is required by Florida Statute 1003.21.
- **Proof of Guardianship** (if applicable)
- **School Records** – Standardized test scores, recent report cards, and school withdrawal forms are documents that will help the school place your child appropriately. If you do not have access to these verifications, please provide the school with the name and address of your child's previous school so that the necessary information can be obtained.

Parents Bill of Rights

The state, its political subdivisions, any other governmental entity, or other institution may not infringe upon the fundamental rights of a parent to direct the upbringing, education, health care, and mental health of a minor child. If those entities infringe upon a parent's fundamental right, they must demonstrate that the action is reasonable and necessary to achieve a compelling state interest, and the action must be narrowly tailored and not otherwise served by less restrictive means.

A school district will promote parental involvement in the public school system by providing access to the child's studies and instructional materials while recognizing a parent's right to withdraw the child from objectionable portions of the school's curriculum. A resource page for parents has been created by the Florida Department of Education to help them navigate the avenues available for them to voice concerns regarding potentially unlawful school materials. <https://www.fl DOE.org/ParentalRights/>

Requesting a Change in Placement

The Parent's Role with Placement Decisions

Many factors are considered when making a placement decision for a student. The placement decision is based on the preponderance of evidence showing how well a student is meeting the levels of performance for student progression to the next grade level. Parents or guardians may discuss placement decisions with school officials, provide input for consideration, and ask for an explanation of the placement. They may also review the evidence the school used in making the placement; however, the final placement decision is made by the principal. There is no statutory provision which allows voluntary retention.

How do I request a teacher change?

Florida Statute [1003.3101](#) gives a parent the right to request his or her child be transferred to another classroom teacher based on (1) the teacher's out-of-field certification status or (2) personal preference. This statute does not give the parent the right to choose a specific classroom teacher. Teachers with out-of-field certification are named on our district website 30 days before the beginning of the semester. Parents may complete a Teacher Change Request form, which is also available on the district website and at schools. When the form is returned to the school, the parent will be contacted to schedule a conference (required). After the conference, the principal will either approve or deny the request with the rationale for the denial in writing. Consistent with school board rules and in accordance with state statute ([1012.28 \(5\) F.S.](#)), the Superintendent has designated the principal of the school as the final authority in the placement of students in programs or classes.

How do I obtain a school transfer?

Information regarding types of transfers can found at <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/choice/>.

The hardship out-of-zone transfer request process is available on the School Services website, <https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/schoolservices/transfers/>.

Testing

Throughout the school year, your child will take several standardized tests, including the Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST), as part of the new coordinated screening and progress monitoring system aligned to the Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking (B.E.S.T.) standards. These assessments include Renaissance Star Early Literacy for VPK, Renaissance Star Early Literacy/Reading and Star Mathematics for grades K-2, Cambium Reading for grades 3-10, Cambium Writing for grades 4-10, and Cambium Mathematics for grades 3-8. These assessments are administered three times per year and measure student success with the B.E.S.T. standards. At the fifth and eighth grade levels, students also take the Statewide Science Assessment. This test measures how well students are meeting the state academic standards in science. Students enrolled in Algebra 1, Biology, Civics, Geometry, or U.S. History will take the corresponding state End-of-Course (EOC) assessment and it will constitute 30% of the final grade in the course. Students with disabilities following a modified curriculum will take the Florida Standards Alternate Assessment (FSAA) at the same grade level as their peers who participate in the general statewide assessment program. For additional information about statewide assessments please visit <https://www.fldoe.org/accountability/assessments/k-12-student-assessment/>.

The Florida Department of Education (FDOE) standardized assessments provide information about your child's level of success with the B.E.S.T. standards, track student progress over time, and indicate grade-level performance with the use of achievement levels. Schools use test scores to develop plans for individual student improvement, and test scores are helpful in identifying academic areas of challenge that may require additional support or varied teaching methods. Test results also help identify a student's strengths and may suggest a need for extended learning experiences. Parents always have access to their child's test results through the Home Access Center (HAC).

Schools may opt for additional testing programs, and each school-specific assessment calendar can be found on their individual school website. The district assessment calendar is also available here: <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/testing/>. For more information, please refer to the Appendix of this guide.

Reading – Our #1 Priority

St Johns County Schools believe that reading is the most important skill taught in elementary school. Children master six related components as they learn to read. The components of reading include:

1. **Oral Language** provides the foundation for literacy development involving listening and speaking skills.
2. **Phonemic Awareness** is the ability to hear and manipulate the sounds of spoken language. This includes noticing rhyme and the separate, small sounds in words (phonemes).
3. **Phonics** is understanding the relationships between written letters and the sounds they represent. This knowledge allows the reader to “decode” words by translating the letters into speech sounds and blending those sounds to form words.
4. **Fluency** is the ability to read with accuracy, at an appropriate rate and with proper expression. Fluent readers are able to better understand what they read because they are able to decode and recognize frequently used words. This allows them to read at a conversational pace.
5. **Vocabulary** refers to words a reader can understand and use. The more words a child knows, the better he or she understands what is read. Knowing how words relate to each other is a building block that leads to comprehension.
6. **Comprehension** is the ability to understand what one has read. This includes understanding the plot of a story or the information in an article. It also includes the ability to recognize the central idea of an article or being able to compare and contrast characters in a story.



For more information about how parents can promote literacy skills, go to [Florida Academics](#).

What are the B.E.S.T. Standards?

From the beginning of the American experience, citizens have discussed the importance of education and what learning should be taught in school. Educational standards are the learning goals describing what students should know and be able to do at each grade level.

Florida's Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking (B.E.S.T.) Standards for English Language Arts (ELA) and math are approved by the Florida State Board of Education and are implemented across all grades.

The Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking (B.E.S.T.) Standards for Math include the K-8 grade level standards, the content standards in high school courses, and the K-12 Mathematical Thinking and Reasoning Standards.

The Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking (B.E.S.T.) Standards for English Language Arts (ELA) include the K-12 English Language Arts benchmarks specific to each grade level as well as the K-12 ELA Expectations, which are overarching skills that run through every component of language arts.

These rigorous and relevant standards will prepare Florida's students with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in college, career and life. Each B.E.S.T. Standard provides clear expectations for the knowledge and skills students need to master as they progress through each grade and subject. Parents are encouraged to find more information about the B.E.S.T. Standards at <http://www.fldoe.org/academics/standards>.

Next Generation Sunshine State Standards are in place for the Arts, Health Education, Science, Social Studies, and World Languages.

Parents may view all of the standards at <http://www.cpalms.org/Public/>.

Kindergarten

In kindergarten, children learn to:

- identify and print upper and lowercase letters of the alphabet
- recognize and produce the sound of each letter
- decode and encode simple words by blending sounds
- draw, dictate, and write simple stories
- listen to and retell familiar stories
- count to tell number of objects
- understand addition as putting together and adding to, and understand subtraction as taking apart and taking from
- identify and describe shapes and classify objects
- know the body parts associated with and function of five senses
- sort objects by observable properties such as size, shape, color, temperature (hot or cold)
- observe that things make sound vibrate
- observe plants and animals, describe how they are alike and different in the way they look and the things they do
- describe and compare using measurable attributes
- identify, describe, analyze, compare, create and compose shapes
- understand that different things move at different speeds (motion)
- use your five senses to observe things: big, small, far, near, push, pull
- describe attributes of day and night
- describe relative location of people, places, things using positional words and map skills
- describe different kinds of jobs that people do and the tools or equipment used
- know people and events honored in holidays

Parents may view all of the kindergarten standards at <http://www.cpalms.org/Public/> (click on “Standards, then enter the subject and grade level).

How do I help my child?

- Check recommended pacing and content standards using the SJCSO year-at-a-glance documents that are available at <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/year-at-a-glance/>
- View the [Parent Guide](#) for Kindergarten English Language Arts and the [Parent Guide](#) for Kindergarten Mathematics
- View math information http://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/12087/urlt/GK_Mathematics_Florida_Standards.pdf
- View reading information at [Just Read, Florida](#)
- Communicate with the teacher – e-mail is usually best
- Look regularly at your child’s schoolwork
- Attend parent-teacher conferences
- Attend the school’s Open House, PTA/PTO meetings, and special events
- Become a member of the School Advisory Council (SAC)
- Visit and volunteer at the school

What national, state or district tests will my child take in kindergarten?

Kindergarten students participate in the Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST) within the first 30 days of school and again in the middle and end of the year. The FAST assessment tool is STAR Early Literacy, which assists teachers in understanding the abilities of children entering school and targets instruction that helps children become successful learners. STAR data assists teachers in planning curriculum and improving school readiness programs and services for preschool-age children. Visit <https://www.renaissance.com/lp/florida-k-readiness-practice/> for a better understanding of what your child will experience during the STAR Early

Literacy assessment. This site provides a child-friendly explanation of the assessment along with a few practice questions.

Schools have the option of using additional diagnostic assessments, as appropriate. A district assessment calendar is available at <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/testing/> and a school assessment calendar is available online for each school.

First Grade

In first grade, children learn to:

- read independently for multiple purposes
- decode one and two syllable words by blending sounds
- encode (spell) one syllable words
- write stories, journals and lists
- read and discuss different types of literature and informational text
- represent and solve problems involving addition and subtraction facts
- understand place value and properties of operations to add and subtract
- reason with shapes and their attributes
- represent and interpret data
- explore the Law of Gravity
- demonstrate and describe various way objects can move
- identify the major parts of plants, including stem, roots, leaves and flowers
- identify the difference between living and nonliving things
- use simple maps and globes
- recognize symbols and individuals that represent American constitutional democracy
- describe the characteristics of responsible citizenship in the school community
- show respect and kindness to people and animals
- distinguish people as buyers, sellers, and producers of goods and services

Parents may view all the first grade standards at <http://www.cpalms.org/Public/> (click on “Standards”, then enter the subject and grade level).

How do I help my child?

- Check recommended pacing and content standards using the SJCS D year-at-a-glance documents that are available at <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/year-at-a-glance/>
- View the [Parent Guide](#) for Grade 1 English Language Arts and the [Parent Guide](#) for Grade 1 Mathematics
- View math information http://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/12087/urlt/GK_Mathematics_Florida_Standards.pdf
- View reading information at [Just Read, Florida](#)
- Communicate with the teacher – e-mail is usually best
- Look regularly at your child’s schoolwork
- Attend parent-teacher conferences
- Attend the school’s Open House, PTA/PTO meetings, and special events
- Become a member of the School Advisory Council (SAC)
- Visit and volunteer at the school

What national, state or district tests will my child take in first grade?

First grade students participate in the Florida Assessment for Student Thinking (FAST) assessment three times during the year for progress monitoring and guiding instruction.

Schools have the option to use additional diagnostic assessments, as appropriate. A district assessment calendar is available at <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/testing/> and a school assessment calendar is available for each school.

Second Grade

In second grade, children learn to:

- read independently for multiple purposes
- decode and encode one and two syllable words by blending sounds
- write for different purposes (tell a story, give facts, share an opinion)
- read and discuss different types of literature, including poetry and informational text
- use simple maps, globes and models to identify places
- label on a map or globe the continents, oceans, Equator, Prime Meridian, North and South Pole
- use a map to locate the countries in North America
- recognize that people supply goods and services based on consumer demands
- classify soil types
- distinguish human body parts and their basic functions
- observe and describe major stages in the life cycles of plants and animals
- identify solids, liquids and gases
- understand how magnets work (attract and repel)
- describe ways to conserve energy
- work with equal groups of objects to gain foundations for multiplication
- use place value understanding and properties of operations to add and subtract
- relate addition and subtraction to length
- reason with shapes and their attributes

Parents may view all the second grade standards at <http://www.cpalms.org/Public/> (click on “Standards”, then enter the subject and grade level).

How do I help my child?

- Check recommended pacing and content standards using the SJCSO year-at-a-glance documents that are available at <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/year-at-a-glance/>
- View the [Parent Guide](#) for Grade 2 English Language Arts and the [Parent Guide](#) for Grade 2 Mathematics
- View math information http://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/12087/urlt/GK_Mathematics_Florida_Standards.pdf
- View reading information at [Just Read, Florida](#)
- Communicate with the teacher – e-mail is usually best
- Look regularly at your child’s schoolwork
- Attend parent-teacher conferences
- Attend the school’s Open House, PTA/PTO meetings, and special events
- Become a member of the School Advisory Council (SAC)
- Visit and volunteer at the school

What national, state or district tests will my child take in second grade?

Second grade students participate in the Florida Assessment for Student Thinking (FAST) assessment three times during the year for progress monitoring and guiding instruction.

Schools have the option of using additional diagnostic assessments, as appropriate. A district assessment calendar is at <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/testing/> and a school assessment calendar is available for each school.

Third Grade

In third grade children learn to:

- read independently for multiple purposes
- pre-write, draft, edit and publish different kinds of writing
- understand story structure: setting, plot and sequence of events
- begin learning to write in cursive
- use text features to understand informational text
- use simple maps, globes, charts and models to identify places
- label the states in each of the five regions and the countries and commonwealths in North America
- describe how government gains its power from the people
- explain how government was established through a written Constitution
- identify the geography, culture, environment and economics of the United States, Canada, Mexico and Caribbean
- recognize buyers and sellers interact to exchange goods and services through the use of trade or money
- tell how weather impacts habitats
- understand ways animals and plants interact and are interdependent
- describe structures in plants and their roles in food production, support, water and nutrient transport, and reproduction.
- demonstrate that light travels in a straight line until it strikes an object or travels from one medium to another
- demonstrate that light can be reflected, refracted, and absorbed
- know various forms of energy and trace their flow
- understand properties of multiplication and the relationship between multiplication and division and fluency
- use place value understanding and properties of operations to perform multi-digit arithmetic
- develop an understanding of fractions as numbers
- understand area as a concept of geometric measurement and how it relates to multiplication and addition
- reason with shapes and their attributes

Parents may view all third grade standards at <http://www.cpalms.org/Public/> (click on “Standards”, then enter the subject and grade level).

How do I help my child?

- Check recommended pacing and content standards using the SJCSJ year-at-a-glance documents that are available at <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/year-at-a-glance/>
- View the [Parent Guide](#) for Grade 3 English Language Arts and the [Parent Guide](#) for Grade 3 Mathematics
- View math information http://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/12087/urlt/GK_Mathematics_Florida_Standards.pdf
- View reading information at [Just Read, Florida](#)
- Communicate with the teacher – e-mail is usually best
- Look regularly at your child’s schoolwork
- Attend parent-teacher conferences
- Attend the school’s Open House, PTA/PTO meetings, and special events
- Become a member of the School Advisory Council (SAC)
- Visit and volunteer at the school

What national, state or district tests will my child take in third grade?

Third grade students participate in the Florida Assessment for Student Thinking (FAST) assessment three times during the year for progress monitoring and guiding instruction. Third grade students participate in the FAST in reading and mathematics.

Schools have the option of using additional diagnostic assessments as well. A district assessment calendar is at <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/testing/> and a school assessment calendar is available for each school.

Fourth Grade

In fourth grade children learn to:

- read independently for multiple purposes
- understand the importance of plot, theme, setting, and characters in literature
- understand the overall text structure of nonfiction text
- plan, draft, revise, edit and publish stories and other forms of writing including text-based writing
- relate that the rotation of earth and apparent movements of the sun, moon, and stars are connected
- identify the physical properties of common earth-forming minerals.
- recognize humans need resources found on Earth and that these are either renewable or nonrenewable
- describe the difference between physical weathering and erosion.
- compare and contrast the major stages in the life cycles of Florida plants and animals
- trace the flow of energy from the sun as it is transferred along the food chain
- observe and describe some basic forms of energy
- analyze and describe Florida History from Pre-Columbian to Contemporary Florida
- use simple maps, globes, charts and graphs
- gain familiarity with factors and multiples
- generalize place value understanding for multi-digit whole numbers
- extend understanding of fractions and ordering
- understand the geometric concepts of angles and be able to measure angles
- draw and identify angles, classify shapes by properties of their lines and angles

Parents may view all fourth grade standards at <http://www.cpalms.org/Public/> (click on “Standards”, then enter the subject and grade level).

How do I help my child?

- Check recommended pacing and content standards using the SJCS D year-at-a-glance documents that are available at <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/year-at-a-glance/>
- View the [Parent Guide](#) for Grade 4 English Language Arts and the [Parent Guide](#) for Grade 4 Mathematics
- View math information http://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/12087/urlt/GK_Mathematics_Florida_Standards.pdf
- View reading information at [Just Read, Florida](#)
- Communicate with the teacher – e-mail is usually best
- Look regularly at your child’s schoolwork
- Attend parent-teacher conferences
- Attend the school’s Open House, PTA/PTO meetings, and special events
- Become a member of the School Advisory Council (SAC)
- Visit and volunteer at the school

What national, state or district tests will my child take in fourth grade?

Fourth grade students participate in the Florida Assessment for Student Thinking (FAST) assessment three times during the year for progress monitoring and guiding instruction. Fourth grade students participate in the FAST in reading, writing and mathematics.

Schools may also opt for additional diagnostics. A district assessment calendar is available at <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/testing/> and a school assessment calendar is available for each school.

Fifth Grade

In fifth grade students will learn to:

- read independently for multiple purposes
- understand the importance of plot, theme, setting and characters in literature
- understand the overall text structure of nonfiction text
- plan, draft, revise, edit and publish stories and other forms of writing including text-based writing
- understand the scientific process and use it to solve problems
- explain the difference between an experiment and other types of scientific investigation
- recognize and explain that science is grounded in empirical observations that are testable; explanation must always be linked with evidence
- investigate the flow of energy through closed circuits
- distinguish between the Sun, inner and outer planets, asteroids and comets
- describe climate zones, types of precipitation, and the water cycle
- explain force and motion concepts and relationships
- compare and contrast different forms of energy
- compare and contrast properties of matter
- identify human body organs and their function
- understand civil rights and suffrage
- demonstrate an understanding of political, economic, and social aspects of daily colonial life in the thirteen colonies
- identify significant events, individuals, and groups that played a role in the American Revolution
- explain economic, military, and political factors which led to the end of the Revolutionary War
- study government, the economy, immigration, and education
- write and interpret numerical expressions
- perform operations with multi-digit whole numbers and with decimals to hundredths
- apply and extend previous understandings of multiplication and division to multiplication and division of fractions
- understand concepts of volume and relate volume to multiplication and to addition.
- graph points on the coordinate plane to solve real-world mathematical problems

Parents may view all fifth grade standards at <http://www.cpalms.org/Public/> (click on “Standards”, then enter the subject and grade level).

How do I help my child?

- Check recommended pacing and content standards using the SJCS D year-at-a-glance documents that are available at <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/year-at-a-glance/>
- View the [Parent Guide](#) for Grade 5 English Language Arts and the [Parent Guide](#) for Grade 5 Mathematics
- View math information http://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/12087/urlt/GK_Mathematics_Florida_Standards.pdf
- View reading information at [Just Read, Florida](#)
- Communicate with the teacher – e-mail is usually best
- Look regularly at your child’s schoolwork
- Attend parent-teacher conferences
- Attend the school’s Open House, PTA/PTO meetings, and special events
- Become a member of the School Advisory Council (SAC)
- Visit and volunteer at the school

What national, state or district tests will my child take in fifth grade?

Fifth grade students participate in the Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST) assessment three times during the year for progress monitoring and guiding instruction. Fifth grade students participate in the FAST in reading, writing and mathematics. In addition, fifth grade students are assessed using the Statewide Science Assessment (SSA).

Schools may also opt for additional diagnostics. A district assessment calendar is available at <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/testing/> and a school assessment calendar is available for each school.

Advanced Academic Opportunities in Elementary School

Each school offers Academically Challenging Curriculum to Enhance Learning (ACCEL) options: whole-grade and mid-year promotion, subject matter acceleration, and virtual instruction in higher grade-level subjects.

Course Acceleration

Students in all grades may be eligible for course acceleration after demonstrating mastery of the current grade level standards. When a student's educational experience is accelerated, no guarantee is made that the entire foundation curriculum has been mastered. This is particularly critical in math and science since topics are presented only once, rather than being repeated year after year. Parents should carefully consider the full academic and social ramifications of acceleration. The parent may confer with the teacher, counselor and principal to determine whether single subject acceleration is appropriate for the individual student based on the student's academic history, teacher recommendation and ability to work independently. The Request for Acceleration should be completed before November 1. Consistent with school board rules and in accordance with state statute [1012.28 \(5\) F.S.](#), the Superintendent has designated the principal of the school as the final authority in the placement of students in programs or classes.

Middle school courses are accessible to elementary students through St. Johns Virtual School and may be completed at home or at school. Final approval by the Director of Instructional Services and the Director of Guidance and Choice is required.

For additional information on acceleration options, please contact your school counselor or see the Elementary School Student Progression Plan on the District website at <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/cs/spp/>.

Whole Grade Acceleration

Whole grade acceleration or the double promotion of grade, or part of a grade, may occur when a student achieves at an exceptionally high level. Acceleration may be considered when the student has outstanding abilities and skills, social and emotional maturity, above grade level performance in reading and math, and is capable of meeting other district criteria. When a child is eligible for whole-grade acceleration, parents should carefully consider the following:

- Accelerated coursework grades become a part of your student's permanent record.
- The student is responsible for mastering all standards in his or her current grade and is required to take accelerated grade level FAST Assessments in English Language Arts and Math (3rd – 5th grades), Statewide Science Assessment (5th grade) and Civics (8th grade).
- Parental involvement in the entire process of accelerated coursework is necessary for student success.
- Candidates for whole grade acceleration should have excellent study skills, be self-motivated, and be able to work independently.
- Whole grade acceleration in elementary school will result in a student being younger than his or her classmates. This may become a problem for social and emotional development, as well as athletic competition in later years.

Parents who may be interested in completing the application for the acceleration process should consult with their child's teacher, school counselor and the school principal. Consistent with school board rules and in accordance with state statute [1012.28 \(5\) F.S.](#), the Superintendent has designated the principal of the school as the final authority in the placement of students in programs or classes.

Grade acceleration does not supersede the initial placement age criteria as specified in Florida Statute 1003.21:

- To enter kindergarten, the student must be five years old on or before September 1 of the current school year
- To enter first grade, the student must be six years old on or before September 1 of the current school year

Middle School Years (Grades 6-8)

At the middle school level, students are able to:

- read independently for pleasure
- read, analyze and compare various types of literature, including novels, plays, poetry, stories and non-fiction
- write formal, multi-paragraph essays to explain and/or persuade, or compare sources, and appropriately use proper conventions, focus, organization, and support
- complete research projects on a variety of assigned topics
- prepare and present effective oral presentations
- use integers, fractions, decimals and percentages in math
- use measurements to solve math problems in real world situations
- use empirical observations and measurements to study the natural world
- investigate key concepts in physical, life, and earth/space science
- study the history and the role of the American citizen in democracy
- use a computer to write reports, create graphs and make charts

Parents may view all the middle school standards at <http://www.cpalms.org/Public/>. (Click on “Standards”, then enter the subject and grade level).

The middle school course catalog is available online at <https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/courses/middle/>.

Middle school course sequences are available in the appendix. For middle school course requirements, please contact your school counselor or see the Middle School Student Progression Plan at <https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/cs/spp/>.

How do I help my child?

- Ensure that your student completes homework assignments
- Check recommended pacing and content standards using the year-at-a-glance document that is available at <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/year-at-a-glance/>
- Attend parent-teacher conferences
- Communicate with the teacher – email may be best for general communications
- Be familiar with your child’s instructional materials
- Attend the school’s Open House, PTA/PTO meetings, and special events
- Become a member of the School Advisory Council (SAC)
- Visit and volunteer at the school
- Ask your child’s teachers for a syllabus or course outline
- Access the Home Access Center at <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/hac> to check your child’s grades, state test scores, assignments and attendance
- Promote the importance of reading outside of the school setting
- Visit <http://floridastudents.org/#> for Florida Standards-based videos for English language arts, math, science and civics
- Visit <http://floridastudents.org/#> for parent guides and resources for English language arts and math
- Encourage your child to participate in academic fairs, events and clubs such as the Science Fair, History Fair and Robotics Club. Clubs vary by school based primarily upon student demand.

What state tests will my child take in middle school?

All middle school students participate in Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST) in English Language Arts and Mathematics. The ELA FAST includes a writing component which is administered in April and a reading test administered three times a year. The FAST Math assessment is also administered three times a year. The FAST measures how well a student is meeting the Florida B.E.S.T Standards (Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking).

Eighth grade students will take the Statewide Science Assessment. This test measures how well students are meeting the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards (NGSSS) in the area of science.

Eighth grade students enrolled in civics participate in the state end-of-course (EOC) assessment which constitutes 30 percent to the final grade in the course.

Students enrolled in high school courses which include a state EOC assessment must participate in the EOC which contributes 30 percent to the final grade in the course (Algebra I, Algebra 1B, Geometry, Biology and U.S. History).

For information on EOC assessments, parents may go to <http://www.fldoe.org/accountability/assessments/k-12-student-assessment/end-of-course-eoc-assessments/>.

The district assessment calendar is available at <https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/testing/> and a school assessment calendar is available for each school.

Students taking High School courses in Middle School will follow the District Assessment guide for High School.

Advanced Academic Opportunities in Middle Schools

Each school offers Academically Challenging Curriculum to Enhance Learning (ACCEL) options: whole-grade and mid-year promotion, subject matter acceleration, virtual instruction in higher grade-level subjects, and the Credit Acceleration Program. Acceleration options do not supersede the core requirements for promotion to high school (3 English Language Arts, 3 Math, 3 Science, 3 Social Studies). Students at all middle schools may be enrolled in high school credit-earning courses, such as Algebra I Honors, Geometry Honors, Physical Science Honors, Biology Honors, Spanish I, or Introduction to Information Technology. Parents are encouraged to contact individual middle schools for specific courses offered. High school credit-earning courses adhere to the high school grading policy. Algebra I Honors and Geometry Honors include required state end-of-course exams. They are included in the student's cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) and may be used to satisfy high school graduation requirements and Florida Bright Futures award requirements. Dual enrollment courses are available for middle school students who are ready for college course work.

Program specifics are available through each school's guidance department. See your school counselor for more information.

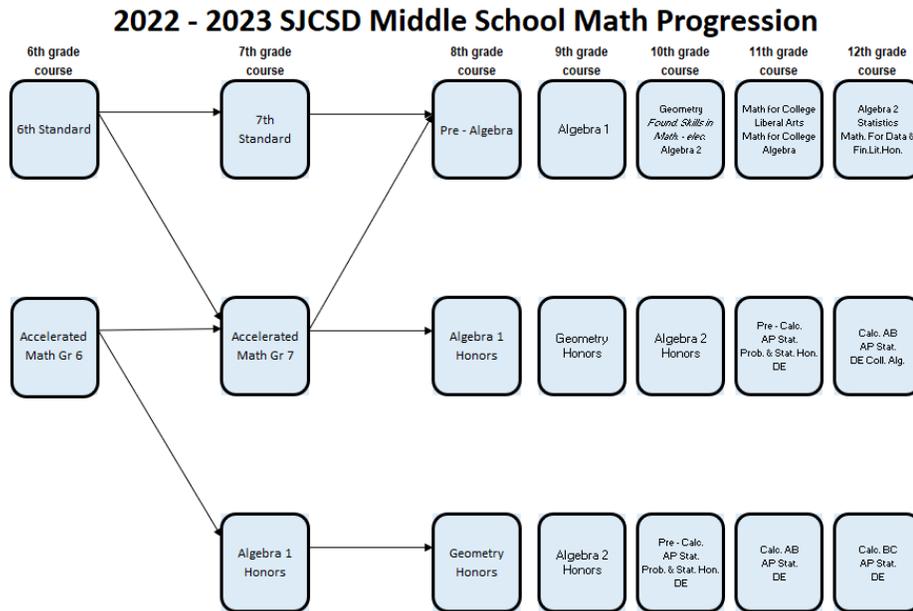
Advanced Course Placement Criteria

The following criteria represent consensus of all middle school and district administrators:

- Grades - A grade of "C" or better in the previous honors or advanced course OR a grade of "A" in the previous standard course OR
- FSA- Level 4 or 5 in appropriate area and not less than a Level 3 in any area
 - ❖ On Mathematics and reading FSA for placement in honors or advanced mathematics classes.
 - ❖ On Reading FSA for placement in honors or advanced English, social studies, science or foreign language

- ❖ Students with level 1 or 2 on their ELA-FSA will be placed in courses that provide targeted or intensive reading interventions and the students may not qualify for an honors level course.
- In the case of extenuating circumstances, petition may be made on a case-by-case basis to the principal (or designee) for review of criteria to ensure proper course placement.

Specific math placement criteria were developed and are shown in the math course progression chart that follows.



Multiple data points to include assessment scores and course grades are used in determining placement.

February 2, 2022

Teacher recommendations may be considered, but the superintendent has designated the principal as the final authority in placement decisions.

Choice Program for Middle School Students

The St. Johns County Center for the Arts at R.J. Murray Middle School is a program of choice for rising 6th graders. It offers artistically gifted students a program of study designed to develop their unique talents in the performing and visual arts within an environment that is emotionally supportive and intellectually challenging. Students must apply and auditions are required.

Application, audition and transportation procedures apply to students requesting consideration for this program. <https://www-mms.stjohns.k12.fl.us/>.



High School (Grades 9-12)

At the high school level, students should be able to perform the following:

- read independently for pleasure
- read, analyze and compare complex types of literature, including novels, plays, poetry, stories, and non-fiction
- write papers (reports, essays and research projects) that explain and/or persuade and appropriately use proper conventions, focus, organization, and support
- conduct research projects using a variety of sources
- prepare and present effective oral presentation.
- use algebra and geometry to solve mathematical problems
- use scientific processes to solve problems
- understand biological processes of all living things
- analyze the history of the United States and the world
- define their own political beliefs based on knowledge of American democracy
- understand different economic systems in the world and how they relate to each other
- understand how financial institutions work and how to manage money

Students entering ninth grade must complete at least one course through online learning or earn an industry certification in Information Technology. AP, IB, AICE and 18 credit diploma candidates are exempt from this requirement.

Parents may view all the standards at <http://www.cpalms.org/Public/>. (Click on “Standards”, then the subject and grade level).

The high school course catalog designated by the state is available online at <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/cs/catalogs/>.

Information about voluntary public service and eligibility requirements for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program can be found at <http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/ssfad/bf/bfmain.htm>.

The high school sequence for language arts, mathematics, social studies and science courses are available in the appendix.

How do I help my child?

- Ensure your student completes homework assignments
- Be familiar with your student’s instructional materials
- Check recommended pacing and content standards using the year-at-a-glance documents that are available at <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/year-at-a-glance/>
- Attend parent-teacher conferences
- Attend the school’s Open House, PTA/PTO meetings, and special events
- Become a member of the School Advisory Council (SAC)
- Visit and volunteer at the school
- Ask your student’s teachers for a syllabus or course outline
- E-mail teachers for general communications
- Use the Home Access Center at <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/hac/> to check your child’s grades, assignments and attendance
- Promote the importance of reading outside the school setting
- Visit <http://www.floridastudents.org/> for Florida Standards-based videos for English language arts, math and science
- Visit <http://www.floridastandards.org/#> for parent guides and resources for English language arts and math

What state or national tests will my child be taking in high school?

All freshmen and sophomores participate in the English Language Arts Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST). The FAST in English Language Arts includes a writing component which is given in April and a reading test given three times a year. This test measures how well students are meeting the English Language Arts Florida B.E.S.T. Standards (Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking).

Students enrolled in a course with a state end-of-course (EOC) assessment participate in the state EOC that contributes 30 percent to the final grade in the course – Algebra 1, Algebra 1B, Geometry, Biology and U.S. History. For additional information concerning assessments, visit <http://www.fldoe.org/accountability/assessments/k-12-student-assessment/end-of-course-eoc-assessments/>.

The Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT) is a state supported exam administered free to all sophomores. Freshmen and juniors have the opportunity to take the PSAT exam; a fee may be incurred. The PSAT functions as an Advanced Placement test success predictor, SAT test success predictor, and is used as a qualifying test for National Merit Scholarships for juniors. The PSAT assesses students in critical reading, mathematics and writing skills. The results are used to advise students about advanced coursework for the purpose of earning college credits.

What district final exams will my child take in high school?

Students participate in a district final exam for select courses. This assessment counts as 10% of the culminating semester grade.

Grade Calculation Guide					
Courses	Semester 1	Semester 2	State EOC	Final Exam	State or Third-Party Assessment
FSA, AP, IB, AICE	Q1 = 50% Q2 = 50%	Q3 = 50% Q4 = 50%	n/a	n/a	No impact to course grade
EOC -yearlong courses	Q1 = 17.5 Q2 = 17.5	Q3 = 17.5 Q4 = 17.5	30% of final grade	n/a	n/a
High School courses District final exam	Q1 = 50% Q2 = 50%	Q3 = 45% Q4 = 45%	n/a	10% of culminating semester grade	n/a
High School courses – No final exam	Q1 = 50% Q2 = 50%	Q3 = 50% Q4 = 50%	n/a	No final exam	n/a

Schools may also opt for additional diagnostic testing programs. The district assessment calendar is available at <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/testing/> and a school assessment calendar is available for each school.

For additional information on high school grade averaging, grade weighting and grade calculation, see the Student Progression Plan at <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/cs/spp>.

Advanced Academic Opportunities in High Schools

Each St. Johns County high school offers Academically Challenging Curriculum to Enhance Learning (ACCEL) options: whole-grade and mid-year promotion, subject matter acceleration, virtual instruction in higher grade-level subjects, early graduation, early admission to college and the Credit by Acceleration Program. These options include both challenging academic programs recognized worldwide and advanced courses for which college credit is awarded upon successful completion of coursework and examinations. A rigorous high school schedule that includes advanced coursework is a major predictor for success in college. Numerous studies show that students who have had rigorous courses (honors, AP, IB, AICE, Dual Enrollment) while in high school are prepared for the challenges of a college education and are much more likely to earn their degree within five years.

Parents are encouraged to be involved in the course selection process. The courses you and your child select are the first steps in preparing for the next level. As students develop their Customized Learning Paths (CLPs) with their parents and guidance counselors, they are encouraged to consider the following opportunities for advancement.

AICE, AP and IB courses are designed to earn college credit as well as meet high school graduation requirements. As such, materials and discussions for these courses may reflect topics not typically included in SJCSD courses. Due to the dual credit nature of these courses, content and materials may not be modified.

All High Schools

Advanced Placement (AP) Courses

The College Board's Advanced Placement (AP) Program is a nationwide program consisting of more than 30 college level courses and exams offered at participating high schools. Subjects range from art to statistics. Students who earn a qualifying grade of 3 or above on an AP exam may earn college credit, placement in higher level courses or both, depending on the college or university. There is no guarantee that a college will accept credits earned through this program.

College-Level Examination Program (CLEP)

College-Level Examination Program (CLEP) exams test mastery of college-level material acquired in a variety of ways – through general academic instructions, significant independent study or extracurricular work. Students can earn credit for what they already know by getting qualifying scores on any of the 33 examinations available. Students are responsible for the CLEP expense and any administrative fees.

Early College Program

The Early College Program is a partnership with St. Johns River State College. Students who meet eligibility criteria may enroll in college courses to simultaneously earn high school and college credit. The pathway provides an opportunity for the student to earn an associate degree simultaneously with their high school diploma. Florida Statute establishes that “the Dual Enrollment program is the enrollment of an eligible secondary student in a postsecondary course creditable toward high school completion and a career certificate or an associate or baccalaureate degree.”

Dual Enrollment

Dual enrollment allows eligible middle and high school students to enroll in postsecondary courses. They earn credit toward high school graduation and at the same time earn credit toward a college degree or technical certificate. Our primary provider of dual enrollment courses is St. Johns River State College. Students are permitted to enroll in dual enrollment courses on a part-time basis during school hours, after school, or during the summer term and on a full-time basis in their junior and senior years. For a list of dual enrollment courses that

are equivalent to high school courses and satisfy graduation requirements, see <https://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/5421/urlt/AcademicList.pdf>.

Dual enrollment science courses taken with a corresponding laboratory course will be awarded 1.0 high school science credit. Dual enrollment sciences courses taken without a laboratory component will be awarded 0.5 high school credits. Lecture and lab courses with different course numbers may be used if the lab course is appropriate to the lecture course as identified by the post-secondary institution.

Early Admission

Early admission is similar to dual enrollment, except that qualified students enroll in college/university courses full-time during their last year in high school. They earn credits simultaneously toward a college degree and a high school diploma.

Honors Courses

Honors courses lay the academic foundation for advanced courses for earning college credit while in high school. Honors courses include all those with an honors designation in the St. Johns County School District High School Course Catalog, Preliminary International Baccalaureate (Pre-IB) and Preliminary Advanced International Certificate of Education (Pre-AICE) courses, and St. Johns Virtual School Courses with an honor designation.

Honors Course Placement Criteria

1. **Grades** - A grade of “C” or better in the previous honors course OR an “A” in the previous standard course
OR
2. **FSA** – Students must score a Level 4 or 5 in appropriate area and not less than a Level 3 in any area:
 - Mathematics FSA for placement in honors mathematics classes
 - Reading FSA for placement in honors English, social studies, science or foreign language**OR**
3. **PSAT** – A score of 480 or higher on the appropriate assessment:
 - Math score for mathematics honors class placement
 - Reading and/or language for English, social studies, science and foreign languages honors class placement**OR**
4. **PLAN**- A score of 170 (English), 210 (mathematics) or higher on the appropriate assessment:
 - Math score for mathematics honors class placement
 - Reading and/or language for English, social studies, science and foreign languages honors class placement
5. **Norm Referenced Test** – Students must score a stanine of 7, 8, or 9 on an appropriate assessment:
 - Math score for mathematics honors class placement
 - Reading and/or language for English, social studies, science, and foreign language honors class placement

Please Note: Students with level 1 or 2 on their ELA-FSA will be placed in courses that provide targeted or intensive reading interventions and the students may not qualify for an honors level course.

In the case of extenuating circumstances, petition may be made on a case-by-case basis to the principal (or designee) for review of criteria to ensure proper course placement.

Advanced International Programs

Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) at Beachside High School and St. Augustine High School

The AICE Program is a rigorous international curriculum and examination program modeled on the British pre-college curriculum. To be considered for an AICE Diploma, a candidate must earn the equivalent of seven credits by passing a combination of examinations at either the full (one credit) Advanced Subsidiary Level (AS) or double (two credits) International Advanced Level (A), with at least one course coming from each of the three curriculum areas and the “Core” course. Florida’s colleges and universities provide college credit for successfully passing the exams. [See Programs of Choice.](#)

International Baccalaureate (IB) at Allen D. Nease and Pedro Menendez High Schools

The IB Diploma Program is a rigorous pre-university course of study leading to internationally standardized tests. The program’s comprehensive two-year curriculum allows its graduates to fulfill requirements of many nations’ education systems. Students completing IB courses and exams from six subject groups are eligible for college credit. The award of credit is based on the scores achieved on the IB exams. Students can earn up to 30 postsecondary semester credits by participating in this program at the high school level. Community service is required. [See Programs of Choice.](#)

Virtual Education

St. Johns Virtual School

St. Johns Virtual School (SJVS) offers multiple, high quality, online curriculums for grades K-12. Courses are taught by St. Johns County teachers and students may opt to take one or more courses during the school day or apply to the diploma granting Full Time program. SJVS can be a resource for students with limited access to AP or other course offerings in their zoned schools. For more information, call 904-547-8081 or visit www.stjohnsvirtual.com.



Programs of Choice

Multi-year Programs of Choice such as Career Academies, Center for the Arts, Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC), and Advanced Academic Programs such as International Baccalaureate (IB) or Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE), are accessed through an application process. An out-of-zone waiver is granted for students to attend programs outside their normal attendance zone. Please note that when a student attends an out-of-zone school, parents/guardians are responsible for transportation of their student.

Program of Choice	High School
St. Johns County Center for the Arts	St. Augustine High School

Junior Reserve Officer Training	High School
Air Force JROTC	Bartram Trail High School
Army JROTC	St. Augustine High School
Navy JROTC	Allen D. Nease High School

Advanced Academic Programs of Choice	High School
Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE)	Beachside High School
Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE)	St. Augustine High School
International Baccalaureate (IB)	Allen D. Nease High School
International Baccalaureate (IB)	Pedro Menendez High School

Career Academies	High School
Academy of Hospitality and Tourism	Allen D. Nease High School
Communications Academy	Allen D. Nease High School
Stellar Academy of Engineering	Allen D. Nease High School
Design Academy	Bartram Trail High School
Information Technology Academy	Bartram Trail High School
VyStar Academy of Business & Finance	Bartram Trail High School
Academy of Global Logistics and Supply Chain Management	Beachside High School
Academy of Information Technology	Beachside High School
Academy of Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences	Beachside High School
Academy of Emerging Technology	Creekside High School
Academy of Engineering and Environmental Sciences	Creekside High School
St. Johns County Academy of Future Teachers	Creekside High School
Academy of Architectural and Building Sciences	Pedro Menendez High School
Flagler Health+ Academy of Future Health Care Professionals	Pedro Menendez High School
VyStar Academy of Business & Finance	Pedro Menendez High School
Academy of Biotechnology and Medical Research	Ponte Vedra High School
Academy of Information Technology	Ponte Vedra High School
Academy of International Business and Marketing	Ponte Vedra High School
Academy of Aviation and Aerospace	St. Augustine High School
Academy of Law and Homeland Security	St. Augustine High School

St. Johns County Academy of Future Teachers	St. Augustine High School
Academy of Coastal and Water Resources	St. Johns Technical High School
Academy of Culinary Arts	St. Johns Technical High School
Academy of Innovation in the Built Environment	Tocoi Creek High School
Academy of Leadership in Emerging Technology	Tocoi Creek High School
Flagler Health+ Academy of Future Healthcare Professionals	Tocoi Creek High School

Career Academies



In St. Johns County, the nine high schools offer 26 career academies aligned with the region’s high-skill, high-wage industries. Career academies are small, personalized learning communities within a high school. Students must apply to be part of an academy and be accepted with parental knowledge and support. Every career academy includes these essential elements: a small learning community; a rigorous, college-prep curriculum with a targeted career theme; relevance reinforced in each program through well established relationships with business partners; and the opportunity to earn college credit and/or industry certifications. Many of our career academies focus on STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) education. STEM-driven curriculum addresses the need for greater diversity in the 21st century workforce by transforming the typical teacher-driven classroom into a problem-solving, exploratory classroom, requiring students to participate in authentic lessons that make connections between school, community, work and global enterprise. Research shows students entering career academies do better in school, have higher college enrollment rates and earn more money than non-career academy students. If your child chooses to enroll in a career academy, he/she may earn college credit through partners such as Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, University of North Florida or St. Johns River State College - all at *no cost* to the student.

Florida Virtual School students, St. Johns Virtual School students and Homeschool Education students who wish to learn more about participating in Career Academies and available Industry Certification examinations should contact the Career and Technical Education Department at 904-547-4870.

Students who demonstrate proficiency on approved Gold Standard Career Pathway Industry Certifications for which there is a current articulation agreement, may be eligible to receive articulated credits from post-secondary institutions (s. 1003.02 F.S.).

Eligible certifications for which there are active agreements may be found at: <http://www.fldoe.org/academics/career-adult-edu/career-technical-edu-agreements/industry-certification.shtml>.

For more information, application process and dates to apply for an Academy, please visit <https://cte.stjohns.k12.fl.us/academies/>.

First Coast Technical College (FCTC)

Students are offered two different formats of hands-on learning through Dual Enrollment and Secondary elective courses at FCTC by meeting the following requirements:

- **Career Dual Enrollment**
 - enrolled in 9-12th grade; some programs are 11-12th grade only
 - maintain 2.0 unweighted GPA
 - submit the [Dual Enrollment Admission Application](#) with all required signatures by the deadline
 - check your email for important updates

- **Secondary elective courses**
 - enrolled in 9-12th grade
 - complete the [High School Student Registration](#) form with required signatures for your home school counselor to submit by the deadline

Key guidelines for successful student outcomes:

- Students are motivated
- Students have the ability to adapt successfully to a college environment
- Students are accountable for their attendance
- Students are engaged/proactive learners

For [FAQ](#) and more information on programs offered, requirements and applications, visit [FCTC.edu](https://fctc.edu), <https://fctc.edu/students/highschool/programs/> or your school counselor.

Promotion Requirements

The promotion requirements for students in St. Johns Public Schools can be found in detailed form in the St. Johns County School District *Student Progression Plan* at <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/cs/spp>.

Elementary School (grades K-2)

Promotion in grades K-2 is based primarily on progress in reading. Students must make satisfactory progress in Florida's Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking (B.E.S.T.) to be promoted. Each student's reading progress toward grade level reading achievement is determined by appropriate assessments, both teacher-made and commercial, and teacher judgment.

Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST) will be administered to kindergarten through second grade students. This assessment will determine which students need additional instruction in reading. Each such student shall be referred to the school's Multi-Tier Support System (MTSS) Team or its equivalent for review of the student's progress and portfolio. The MTSS Team or its equivalent shall review the student's records and determine whether the preponderance of evidence indicates that the student should be promoted.

Promotion of Students (grades 3-5)

To be promoted in grades 3-5, a student must demonstrate mastery of grade level benchmarks in language arts, mathematics, and science.

Student performance at a Level 1 or Level 2 on the FAST in reading, and/or Level 1 or 2 in mathematics is considered below grade level. Students performing below grade level shall be referred to the school's Multi-Tier Support System (MTSS) Team or its equivalent for a comprehensive review of the student's academic achievement. The MTSS Team or its equivalent shall review the student's records and determine whether the preponderance of evidence indicates that the student should be promoted.

The principal (or designee) may recommend promotion for a student in grades 3-5 not passing the grade level course in language arts, mathematics, or science, if the student demonstrates mastery of language arts/reading, mathematics, and/or science by achieving a score of Level 3 or above on the FAST in reading and/or mathematics and the preponderance of evidence indicates that the student is ready for the work of the next grade level.

In instances where curriculum has been suspended in certain core academic subjects to allow for intensive remediation in reading and/or mathematics, the principal (or designee) makes the determination for promotion based on demonstrated student mastery of appropriate benchmarks.

State law mandates that a grade 3 student who scores a Level 1 on the FAST in reading be retained, unless he/she qualifies for one of six Good Cause Exemptions. For more comprehensive information on promotion and retention, especially for grade 3 students, please refer to the elementary section of the St. Johns County *Student Progression Plan* at <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/cs/spp>.

Florida Law, [Section 1008.22 \(3\)](#) Promotion requirements for third grade students:

- The requirement in [Section 1008.25\(5\)\(b\)](#): To be promoted to grade 4, a student must score a Level 2 or higher on the statewide, standardized English Language Arts assessment required under 1008.22 F.S.
- An additional option approved by the State Board of Education in Rule 6A-1.094221 (a): Scores at or above the 45th percentile on the Reading SAT-10.
- Completes the portfolio assessments at or above 70% mastery.

There are no other options approved in state law or rule for students.

If a 3rd grade student refuses to participate or a parent refuses to allow his/her student to participate in the state required assessment program, the Reading SAT 10, or to complete the portfolio assessments, it will be necessary for the student to be retained in 3rd grade.

Middle School (grades 6-8)

Promotion from a school composed of middle grades 6, 7, and 8 requires that the student must successfully complete academic courses as follows:

1. Three middle school or higher courses in language arts, which emphasize literature, composition, and technical text
2. Three middle school or higher courses in mathematics
3. Three middle school or higher courses in social studies
 - a) One semester which must include the study of state and federal government and civics education.
 - b) Additionally, a career and education-planning course must be completed in either grades 6, 7 or 8th grade. The course must be internet based, customizable to each student and include research bases assessment to assist the students in determining educational and career options. [1003.4156 F.S.](#)
4. Three middle school or higher courses in science
5. The equivalent of one class period per day of physical education for one semester of each year

A student in grades 6, 7 or 8 is considered to be below grade level if he/she scores Level 1 or Level 2 on the Florida Standards Assessment in reading and/or mathematics.

High School (grades 9-12)

Promotion of high school students is dependent on the awarding of credit. To be classified a sophomore, a student must have a minimum of five credits; to be classified a junior, a student must have a minimum of eleven credits; to be classified a senior, a student must have a minimum of seventeen credits. Students may graduate early by completing the 24 credits required for a standard diploma in less than 8 semesters or by completing the 18 credit Acceleration Diploma option. Specific graduation requirements are available at <https://www.fldoe.org/schools/k-12-public-schools/bosss/graduation-requirements/>.

Required Credits at the End of Academic-Year:

Total credits to graduate	18 or 24*
Credits to become a senior	17
Credits to become a junior	11
Credits to become a sophomore	5

*Depending on diploma option selected.

Library Media

St. Johns County School District has a school library media program in each school. Each school has a link on their website that allows parents to review the titles in their library collection. Parents may utilize the [Parental Choice Library Book Restriction Form](#) to restrict titles their child may check out from the school library.

Each school has a School Media Advisory Committee made up of parents, community members and staff. This committee works closely with the school to support media programming and book selections. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please contact your school Media Specialist or Principal.

Grading and Reporting

Report cards provide the student and the student's parent or guardian with an objective evaluation of scholastic achievement with indicators of progress. Report cards depict and evaluate the student's:

- academic performance in each class or course in grades K through 5 based on examinations as well as other appropriate academic performance items
- conduct and behavior and
- attendance, including absences and tardies

All schools use the district's approved report card as the primary means of reporting student progress. Report cards are issued at the end of each grading period on dates adopted annually for the official school year calendar. Grades are issued to all students in attendance. Students transferring into the district after the midpoint of a reporting period may be assigned grades based on records/grades from the sending school.

Students Working on Grade Level in Grades K-5

Report card grades reflect the student's progress toward meeting standards. Satisfactory grades in the general program indicate an acceptable level of progress of most grade level standards for that point in the year.

Interim Progress Reports

Interim progress reports are issued to all students in grades 1-12 at the midpoint of each regularly established grading period on dates adopted annually for the official school calendar. Interim reports may be done via parent or guardian conferences as well as through reporting forms or Home Access Center (HAC).

GRADING SCALE FOR GRADES 3 - 12		
Grades	Descriptor	GPA Unweighted Value (High School Only)
A = 90 - 100	Outstanding Progress	4.0
B = 80 - 89	Above Average Progress	3.0
C = 70 - 79	Average Progress	2.0
D = 60 - 69	Lowest Acceptable Progress	1.0
F = 0 - 59	Failure	0
I = 0	Incomplete	0

Middle and High Retake and Remediation Policies

For information regarding middle school and high school retake and remediation policy, see the Student Progression Plan at <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/cs/spp>.

Summer Programs

Summer Reading Program

- REQUIRED for 3rd graders scoring at Level 1 on the FAST in reading
- Best-practice reading instruction by highly effective teachers
- Five days per week
- Transportation provided

Extended School Year

- For students with disabilities who have an Individual Education Plan (IEP) indicating that extended school year services are necessary to allow the student to benefit from his/her school year instructional program or to prevent significant regression
- Instruction by highly qualified instructors in a variety of service delivery models to meet the needs of individual students
- Transportation provided

Virtual and Dual Enrollment Options

- St. Johns Virtual School and Florida Virtual School offers summer courses for acceleration or credit recovery
- APEX online course recovery is offered for grades 6 -12 students
- Dual Enrollment courses for eligible students are available through St. Johns River State College

Available Services

Extended Day

Extended Day is offered at most elementary schools and K-8 schools by either the school or community agencies. Before and after school care is available for students K-5. Please check with each individual K-8 for program times and grades served. These programs are a community service; pricing will differ from school to school. Contact your child's school for details on their Extended Day Program.

Full-Service Schools

Full-Service Schools is a collaborative program with local community partners. It is designed to promote positive mental, emotional, physical and social health services for students and families in Full-Service School sites. The current sites are Crookshank Elementary, Osceola Elementary, Webster Elementary and South Woods Elementary Schools. Services include but are not limited to counseling, health screenings, dental services, vision evaluations with follow up, nutrition programs, and social services referrals. For information, please contact Student Services at 904-547-7587.



Head Start

The SJCS D Head Start Program provides high quality comprehensive services to eligible three and four-year olds. Head Start students receive educational, dental, mental health, disabilities, health, nutrition, and family support services. Head Start is a full school day program and is located at Crookshank Elementary, Osceola Elementary, South Woods Elementary, Webster Elementary and FCTC. Please contact Early Childhood Services at 904-547-8965 for additional information.

Homeless

Children and youth who lack a fixed, regular, adequate nighttime residence are considered homeless. If due to a loss of housing, a child must live in a shelter, motel, vehicle, or campground on the street, in abandoned buildings, or doubled-up with relatives or friends, then he/she is eligible to receive services provided under the McKinney-Vento Act.

For further information, contact the SJCS D Homeless Liaison at (904) 547-7589 or visit <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/homeless/>.

Placement of Dependent Children of Active-Duty Military Personnel

Florida is a member of the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission which addresses key educational transition issues encountered by children of active military families. The purpose of the Compact is to remove barriers to educational success imposed on children of military families including, but not limited to, eligibility, enrollment, placement and graduation. Further information is available from the Student Services Department at (904) 547-7598.



Title I, Part A

Title I (Improving the Academic Achievement of the Disadvantaged) is a program serving students in elementary and secondary schools. Title I, Part A funding provides supplemental academic services to students enrolled in high-poverty schools within St. Johns County. For more information, please call 904-547-8928. You may also access the website at <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/federal/>.

Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK)

The SJCS D VPK Program is available at 13 of our elementary schools and FCTC. The VPK program is a high quality blended early childhood program that is designed to prepare our four-year olds for kindergarten. VPK is a state funded program for all children four years of age on or before September 1 of the school year entering the program. Children are eligible to attend VPK during the school year or during the summer prior to entering kindergarten. VPK provides 540 hours of instruction for three hours per day from 8:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. Monday through Friday throughout the school year. The Summer VPK Program is 300 hours of instruction.

District VPK Programs are funded with resources from Head Start, ESE, Title I and VPK. Programs at Crookshank Elementary, Osceola Elementary, South Woods Elementary and Webster Elementary are free all-day programs. Another model of VPK offers extended day on a sliding fee scale at our other VPK school sites. For more information, please contact VPK Manager Donna Fenech at Early Childhood Services at 904-547-8959 or call your child's home zoned school.

More Services Available to Parents:

Please contact your child's school counselor or the school front office for information on the following:

- Mentoring services
- Student counseling services
- Academic advice for your child
- After school programs
- The school's annual report
- An explanation of the student's progress report and assessments results
- Promotion requirements
- Home Access Center – a web-based application that allows parents to view their child's educational information via a secure password-protected website. More details can be found at <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/hac/>. (Refer to the Home Access Center section of this document for an overview of the program.)

Food Service

Meal Prices for 2022-2023:

Elementary Breakfast	\$1.25
Elementary Lunch	\$2.80
Secondary Breakfast	\$1.25
Secondary Lunch	\$2.95
Extra Milk	\$.60
Adult Breakfast	\$2.50
Adult Lunch	\$4.50
Reduced Price Breakfast	\$.30
Reduced Price Lunch	\$.40



Menus:

Menus can be found on the St. Johns County District website, <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/food/> under the Food & Nutrition Services Department tab.

How do students access their meal account at school?

All students will receive a personal identification number (PIN) for their meal account from their homeroom teacher or the food service manager at the beginning of the school year. This can range from a three to five-digit number. Your student should memorize this number and not share with any other students as this number is directly tied to their personal account. Your student will use this PIN number until he/she leaves that school. When the student moves to a new school within the District, a new number is assigned. Student Identification scanners are used at some of the elementary, middle and high schools, and must be used to access their account. Please check with your student.

Forgot your lunch money?

Negative Food Service Account Balance Policy

Elementary Schools:

- At \$0 balance, no a la carte purchases are permitted. Any debt must be paid before a la carte purchases can be made.
- When the student's account balance reaches negative \$10, the Food Service Manager will communicate with the parent(s) or guardian via letter, email, and/or phone call. An application for free or reduced lunch will be offered to the parent/guardian.
- Once the negative \$15.00 balance is exceeded, the Food Service Manager will alert school administration of the negative balance issue.
- A follow-up with Student Services will occur if the parent/guardian does not respond.

Middle and High Schools:

- The student will be informed when his/her account balance is less than \$5.00.
- At \$0 balance, no a la carte purchases are permitted. Any debt must be paid before a la carte purchases can be made.
- When the student's account reaches negative \$10.00, the Food Service Manager will communicate with the parent(s) or guardian via letter, email, and/or phone call. An application for free or reduced lunch will be offered to the parent/guardian.
- Once the negative \$15.00 balance is exceeded, the Food Service Manager will alert school administration of the negative balance issue.
- A follow-up with Student Services will occur if the parent/guardian does not respond.

You can set up an account at www.paypams.com to review student meal transactions.

***The Negative Food Service Account Balance Policy detailed above can be printed for reference by all applicable households.*

***No student will be overtly identified as a recipient of any level of school meal benefits.*

***No student will be denied a school meal because of a negative food service account balance.*

A la Carte Items:

Many of the schools provide specialty, A La Carte items. These items range in price and are not included in the paid, free or reduced priced “school lunch”. All customers may purchase a la carte items with cash or by using their lunch account.

Free and Reduced-Price Meal Application

Parents are encouraged to complete one Free and Reduced-Price Meal Application per family, including all children in household rather than one per child. The application can be obtained online at www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/food/free and completed online by following the link to online Free and Reduced Meal Application. This single application for the family may be returned to any of the District Schools where parents have a child/children enrolled; we prefer that parents return the application to the school where their youngest child is enrolled. The schools will be sending all completed applications to the District School Food Services Office for centralized approval. Until the application is processed and approved by the District Food Service Office, any meal charges will be the responsibility of the adult/guardian. The approval process can take up to ten (10) days.

Your student(s) meal status (free or reduced) at the end of a school year will continue through the first 30 days of the next school year. Unless a new Family Meal Application has been processed and approved by the 30th day of school, your student(s) meal status will revert to PAID. You may complete a lunch application at any time during the school year.

Please note: Children attending a CEP (Community Eligibility Provision) school will not be required to fill out an application. All children eat at no cost at those particular schools. If there is a sibling in the household that attends a non-CEP school, then an application will need to be completed for that child(ren).

CEP schools are as follows:

Crookshank Elementary
R. J. Murray Middle School
Osceola Elementary
South Woods Elementary

St. Johns Technical High School
Transitions Program
Webster Elementary

Prepayment for Food Items

Prepayments to your child's meal account with a debit or credit card can be made by logging onto www.paypams.com. Payment can also be received by the food service manager in the form of check or cash. If a check is used, please indicate student's name, student personal identification number (PIN), and contact phone number on the check in the memo section. Prepayment is encouraged as it assists in movement of students through the line.

Food Allergies

If your child has food allergies, please provide the school nurse with a physician's note indicating the allergies and the appropriate substitutions that are recommended by the physician or medical authority.

Parental Restrictions

Restrictions can be placed on your student's meal account by notifying the food service manager in writing. Once restrictions are placed, they cannot be removed unless the parent provides the food service manager with a letter asking for the restrictions to be removed.

Communication with Food Service Manager

The food service manager is on site prior to the school beginning their breakfast meal preparation, and departs from the school upon completion of lunch. Inquiries regarding your student(s) meal account should be made prior to or immediately after meal service. Please check with your school to determine the best time to contact the food service manager in the event that you have questions.

Refunds

Refunds less than \$20.00 can be issued through the Food Service Manager of your school's cafeteria. Refunds for amounts higher than this should be requested through the Food and Nutrition Services Department, via email, to marie.lamarre@stjohns.k12.fl.us.

Account Balances

Student account balances can be obtained on the web site www.paypams.com at no charge. Your student's account balance, either positive or negative, from the previous school year will roll into the new school year unless a refund has been requested.

Transportation

Guide to a Safe and Efficient School Bus Stop

General Information for Parents/Guardians

- Trust your instincts
- Alert authorities to strange vehicles or persons in vicinity of the school bus stops and/or walkways to/from school bus stops
- Demonstrate respect for public, community, and private properties near bus stops
- Prevent children from crossing roadways between motor vehicles and golf carts
- Don't park motor vehicles or golf carts within fifty (50) feet of intersections from any direction
- Don't park motor vehicles or golf carts within fifty (50) feet of school bus stops from any direction
- Don't allow children to enter/exit motor vehicles or golf carts from the roadside of the motor vehicles or golf carts (enter/exit from curbside only)
- Don't double park or closely stagger motor vehicles or golf carts along roadways or in the vicinity of the school bus stops
- Don't park motor vehicles or golf carts opposing the lawful flow of traffic
- Don't assemble or park in any manner which impedes the safe passage of school buses to and from school bus stops
- Assemble children at designated staging area at least twelve (12) feet from where the school bus stops, prior to the school bus arrival
- Do not wait for the school bus to arrive to have children exit motor vehicles or golf carts, children should assemble 5 minutes prior to stop time
- Please assist with being present at bus stops. Kindergarteners will not be released unless a parent is in sight of the bus door to receive them.
- Please assist receiving children at bus stops during inclement weather
- Arrive at the bus stop at least five (5) minutes before scheduled arrival time
- Manage proper student behavior at the bus stop
- Do not allow children to approach the bus until the bus has come to a complete stop and the school bus operator signals the children to approach the school bus
- Children crossing the roadway to board buses must obey bus operator hand signals in order to safely cross the roadway
- Allow the school bus to leave the school bus stop before driving through the school bus stop location
- Respect the amber and red student lights on the school bus
- Manage residential subcontractors such as landscapers to ensure they don't park in a manner which impedes the safe passage of the school buses
- Adjust commuting times as appropriate to avoid the school buses at the bus stops and/or getting stuck behind the school bus on the roadways
- For safety and security reasons, do not attempt to board the school bus (only eligible students and school board employees are permitted to board the bus at the bus stop)
- Report safety or security concerns to the respective schools, law enforcement, and/or the Transportation Department
- Cyclists must obey traffic control devices displayed by buses (the same as motorists)

The transportation code of conduct is available in the SJCS D Student Code of Conduct at <https://www.sjohns.k12.fl.us/schoolservices/conduct/>.

Business and Community Partnerships

Investing in Kids (INK!) is the 501 (C)(3) non-profit, education foundation recognized as the direct support organization for the St. Johns County School District. INK! Promotes academic success for all St. Johns County public school students through innovative programs, teacher support, and classroom resources.

There's no better way to make an impact than becoming an active advocate for public education!
Volunteer, Partner, Give!

Learn how you can help us impact students and teachers, at www.ink-stjohns.org/ or call 904-547-7120.



Volunteers In Education assists students in many ways to provide a strong school experience. Just some of the things volunteers do include tutoring, mentoring, assisting with field trips, taking part in parent-teacher organizations, supporting extracurricular activities, and many others. We welcome community members to partner with the school district in these efforts. All volunteers, as well as individuals entering a school for other reasons (attending events, teacher conferences, etc.) must have school access. This includes successful completion of a background check performed by the school district. To fill out a school access form, go to <https://stjohns.keepntrack.com/apply>. For more questions, call the RSVP/Volunteer Services Office at 904-547-3945, or read more at <https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/volunteer/>.

The **Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)** of St. Johns County provides meaningful opportunities for people 55 years of age and older to assist students in their educational pursuits. RSVP volunteers provide tutoring and mentoring services to kindergarten through 12th grade students, and also literacy enhancement to preschool students. They are also available to assist not-for-profit and social service agencies with special projects. For more information on this and other district-based volunteer programs, visit www.rsvpstjohns.com, www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/volunteer, or call 904-547-3945.



Qualifications of Teachers

The St. Johns County School Board works to fill St. Johns County classrooms with the most professionally qualified and caring teachers available.

The district strives to have each teacher fully certified in all the classes/courses he/she teaches. At times, however, it is necessary to have a teacher teach a class/course “out of field.” If this occurs, you will be notified that your child’s teacher is currently out of field but working to become certified.



As a parent, you have the right to information regarding the professional qualifications of any teacher who is instructing your child. You may access such information by logging on the Florida Department of Education web site at <http://www.fldoe.org/teaching/certification/index.shtml> selecting “Public Certification Search.” You can look at the certificate of any Florida teacher on this site. If you do not have access to a computer, please contact your child’s school to obtain information.

How You Can Participate

Join a Group

- Each school has a School Advisory Council (SAC); parents are invited to become a member of this important group.
- Sign up as a member of your school's Parent Teacher Association or Organization (PTA/PTO). Please contact your school for details.

Volunteer or Mentor

To contact the School District volunteer services, call 904-547-3945. Parents may also contact the school for volunteer information.

Take a Class at FCTC

At First Coast Technical College (FCTC) you can prepare for a new career in just one year! Visit FCTC.edu or call (904) 547-3460 for more information.

Career Involvement (for businesses)

St. Johns County School District is committed to providing career development activities to all students from kindergarten to adult. The goal is to provide a variety of career awareness and exploration activities while promoting rigorous coursework and quality workplace experiences. To achieve this goal, the involvement of business partners, community leaders, parents, students, and educators is essential. For more information, please call 904-547-4870.

Community Enrichment

Enrichment opportunities that encourage and stimulate lifelong learning take place at various times throughout the year at First Coast Technical College. Whether for personal development, job training, hobbies or fun, qualified instructors will share their passion to bring new skills to our community. Classes will take place late afternoons or evenings at the centrally located campus. For information or to sign-up for email updates, visit [Community Enrichment](#) or call (904) 547-3460.

You Can Help

As a business and/or community leader, you can provide the opportunity for students to explore career options by providing career development activities. You can choose the intensity of involvement based on the length of time and depth of the activity.

Moderate Intensity Activities:

- **Tour of Business** exposes students to career opportunities at the workplace.
- **Career Presenter** share career goals and history with students while at school.
- **Job Shadowing** allows students to explore careers by "shadowing" employees at work.
- **Service Learning** provides students the opportunity to work at a community agency.
- **Educator in the Workplace** provides teachers with the opportunity to experience the skills and attitudes needed at the workplace for classroom application.
- **Mentoring** provides students with one-on-one contact with a professional in a chosen career (can also be a high intensity activity).

High Intensity Activities:

- **Internships, On-the-Job (OJT) Training or Cooperative Education** provide paid or unpaid class-related work experiences.
- **Apprenticeships** allow students to work with an experienced journeyman while acquiring job-related training in a high school setting.
- **Supported Employment** provides work-related opportunities for disabled persons.
- **Advisory Board Members** serve as resources in program development and provide continuous quality improvement.

Homework

The book *Classroom Instruction that Works: Research-Based Strategies for Increasing Student Achievement* by Robert Marzano, Debra Pickering and Jane Pollock identifies the nine instructional strategies that have a high probability of enhancing student achievement for students at all grade levels. Those strategies, in order of effectiveness, are the following:

1. Identifying similarities and differences
2. Summarizing and note taking
3. Reinforcing effort and providing recognition
4. Homework and practice
5. Non-linguistic representations
6. Cooperative learning
7. Setting objectives and providing feedback
8. Generating and testing hypotheses
9. Questions, cues and advance organizers



As homework is one of the strategies proven effective in improving student achievement at certain grade levels, it is important to look at the recommendations of the research study as the findings, in many cases, differ from educators' perception of the role of homework in increasing student achievement in K-12.

1. The purpose of homework should be clearly identified and articulated by the teacher to the student. Best practice includes two common purposes for homework (1) **practice/rehearsal** (2) **preparation or elaboration/extension**. When homework is assigned for the purpose of practice/rehearsal, it should be based on material with which the students are very familiar. When homework is assigned to help prepare students for new content, the teacher should carefully explain the purpose for the homework and make connections for the student.
2. Parent involvement in homework should be kept to a minimum.
3. If homework is assigned, it should be commented on when completed. Providing feedback on homework serves to enhance student achievement. Research shows that when secondary teachers make a comment in writing on homework, there is a gain of the most percentile points; when homework is checked by the teacher, there is gain of almost the same number of percentile points; when homework is assigned but not checked or commented on, there is a minimal gain of percentile points.
4. The following timeframe is recommended by Instructional Services for the total amount of homework per level: **10 minutes per grade level** – 1st grade, a total of 10 minutes, 2nd grade, a total of 20 minutes, 7th grade a total of 70 minutes, etc. Homework should have a specific purpose and connection to the topic(s) being studied and should be assigned **only when necessary** to provide practice or rehearsal or to prepare or elaborate/extend.

Special Services Available

ESE

The mission of the St. Johns County Exceptional Student Education (ESE) Department is to identify exceptional students and to meet their educational needs by providing support and resources to enhance educational opportunities so they may become productive citizens. ESE programs and services address the unique needs of students who are gifted in kindergarten through 12th grade and those with mild, moderate and severe disabilities from age three until they graduate with a regular diploma, or until their 22nd birthday.

ESE programs and services are designed to assist students in reaching their educational goals through the use of instructional and behavioral approaches which are evidence-based and exemplify best practices. Technology is also used in many creative ways to meet student needs. ESE services are available at all district schools for students who have mild to moderate disabilities and those who are gifted. Students with more significant disabilities and prekindergarten students with disabilities are served in cluster programs at selected sites. Program support is provided to students, parents and school personnel by program specialists based at the district office. Students with disabilities who are not eligible for services through the ESE program, may be eligible for an accommodations plan under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. For more information, contact the St. Johns County School District ESE department at 904-547-7672 or visit online: <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/e.se>.

ESOL

The St. Johns County School District English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Program functions within regular schools and classrooms to provide eligible students with the opportunity to learn English while receiving equal access to content instruction in the Florida Standards. Students eligible for the ESOL Program are placed in appropriate grade level classes and courses, while itinerant ESOL teachers help Gen. Ed. Teachers use World Class Instructional Design and Assessment English Language Development (WIDA ELD) Framework and learning strategies to ensure comprehensible instruction. Additional digital resources are sometimes utilized. For more information, please contact the St. Johns County School District ESOL department at 904-8924 or visit online: <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/esol>.

Gifted Program

A student is eligible for special instructional programs for the gifted if the student meets the following criteria:

1. The student demonstrates:
 - a. The need for a special program,
 - b. A majority of characteristics of gifted students according to a standard scale or checklist,
 - c. Superior intellectual development as measured by an intelligence quotient of two (2) standard deviations or more above the mean on an individually administered standardized test of intelligence.

OR

2. The student is a member of an underrepresented group and meets the criteria specified in an approved school district plan for increasing the participation of underrepresented groups in programs for gifted students. Underrepresented groups are students with limited English proficiency or students from low socio-economic status families.

For more information, contact the St. Johns County School District Gifted Program Office at 904-547-7672 or visit online: <https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/e.se/gifted>.

Teen Parent Program

The Teen Parent Program is designed for pregnant and parenting students. Students receive comprehensive and additional services to facilitate the completion of coursework necessary to earn a high school diploma. These services may include childcare, health services, social services, and transportation as needed. For more information, contact the St. Johns County School District Student Services Department at 904-547-7587 or visit online: <https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/tp/>.

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What Parents Can Do to Help Their Students

Monitor and encourage school attendance: Regular attendance is a critical factor in school success because students are more likely to succeed in academics when they attend school consistently. All students who have reached the age of 6 years or who will have reached the age of 6 years by February 1 until the age of 16 years, are required to attend school regularly. Each parent of a child within the compulsory attendance age is responsible for their child's attendance as required by law. School district policy regarding excused and unexcused absences and truancy can be found on the Student Services Department website at <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/student>.

Know what your child is learning: The **Year-at-a-Glance** is a document that informs parents and students of the recommended pacing and content standards for selected courses. It includes the topics to be taught each quarter and a list of instructional resources. The Year-at-a-Glance is only a recommended pacing guide; school leaders and teachers make the final decision regarding the pacing of any program of study. The classroom teacher is always the best source of information regarding content and pacing. The Year-at-a-Glance is supplied as a model of one recommended path to the completion of a course. You can view the Year-at-a-Glance for elementary and secondary core subjects at: <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/year-at-a-glance/>.

Know where your child can get help – Use the FloridaStudents.org website:

This site is specially designed for students and parents. It has over 2000 tutorials, videos, and other resources to support your child's learning in language arts, math, science and civics. To get help on a specific concept, just click on the subject, the grade level, and standard you need at <https://floridastudents.org/#>.



Read to your child: Reading is the heart of education. Read to your child daily from a book that he/she cannot quite yet read on his/her own. For information on what to read to preschool, elementary, middle or high school students please read *The Read-Aloud Handbook* by Jim Trelease. A copy is available in each school library, and many schools also have a video presentation for parents.

Stay informed: Keep up with changes and what your children should be doing at the “Just for Parents” FLDOE website: <http://www.FLdoe.org/family/>.

Take your child to the library: St. Johns County has a main library located downtown, and five branches: Anastasia Island, Bartram Trail, Hastings, Ponte Vedra Beach, and the Southeast Branch. A bookmobile regularly visits communities located more than ten miles from a branch library. For a schedule and more information on the St. Johns County Public Library system, go to <http://www.sjcpls.org/>.

Encourage writing: Writing makes thinking easy to see. Write with your child and let him/her see you writing – shopping lists, thank you notes, to-do lists. Work with your child on his/her written assignments to add detail and to express ideas in order.

Make math part of your language: Your home is a great place to begin to explore and "talk" mathematics with your child. Incorporating math activities and language into familiar daily routines will show your child how math works in everyday life. Play board games, solve puzzles, and ponder brain teasers with your child. Your child will enjoy these kinds of activities while enhancing his or her mathematical thinking. Point out the mathematics involved, and have your child discuss the strategies he or she used. For more tips on helping your child succeed in mathematics, visit the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics <https://www.nctm.org/>.

Make science real: Science is all around us. Involve your child in gardening, caring for family pets, trips to the beach, looking at the stars in the night sky, conducting experiments, and other activities that can contribute to a love of science.

Take your child on a “field study”: There are 24 miles of beaches, and lots of history in our city. Take your child to downtown St. Augustine and surrounding historical sites to help them imagine life long ago. Social studies opportunities surround us in St. Johns County. Our community is also full of artists – painters, sculptors, glass blowers, potters, and musicians. Local schools offer excellent fine arts programs, exhibits and performances for families to explore the arts together.



Get moving: Physical activity is important for good health. Walk, bike ride, surf or play ball with your child. Make it a point to do something active with him/her daily.

Request a mentor: Mentoring is a one-to-one relationship between a caring adult and a student who could benefit from extra help and support. Mentoring has a proven record as a powerful factor in helping students improve their grades and self-esteem and in raising goals and expectations. Mentors serve as coaches, supporters, role models, and advocates and work closely with teachers and school staff. Parents interested in the possibility of having a mentor for their child should contact the school’s guidance counselor for more information.

Communication

Reading and writing: Talk to your child as often as possible. Talk about his/her day, hopes, goals, and interests. Use interesting words as you talk. Play word games with your child.

Parent-Teacher Conferences: One of the best ways to find out how your child is doing in school is through parent-teacher conferences. Your child's teacher may request to schedule a conference; however, if you would like to speak to your child's teacher, you may call, write or e-mail the teacher to set one up. Please be flexible when scheduling a time. Remember this is the opportunity for you to work with the teacher as a team. After the conference, follow up. Keep in touch. Talk to your child about the conference. Stress the positive things the teacher discussed and talk about suggestions for improvement.

Websites: There is a wealth of information on each school's website. Get in the habit of checking it regularly for school and district updates.

Check Home Access Center: Access at <https://homeaccess.stjohns.k12.fl.us> to check grade, FAST scores, assignments and attendance. [See Home Access Center for more information.](#)

Pay attention to what comes home in your child's backpack.

Home Access Center

<https://homeaccess.stjohns.k12.fl.us>

St. Johns County School District has a web-based service, called Home Access Center (HAC), to allow both students and parents to view student educational information.

When using HAC, you will be able to see:

- A calendar of significant events (assignments due, field trips, absences, etc.)
- Student's schedule of classes (not available during summer months)
- Detailed attendance and discipline information
- Homework assignments, tests and grades
- Current progress in each class (not available during summer months or for dual enrollment courses)
- Credits earned toward graduation
- Standardized Test Scores
- Emergency contact information

Parents and guardians will be required to show a photo ID at the child's school to be granted a username and password to HAC. Once granted a HAC account, you may use the same account to view all your children's information.

Students will be assigned their own HAC accounts. Account information will be distributed to students at the school's discretion.



Yearbook Name Change Request: A parent/legal guardian must submit a name change request, in writing, the school principal and yearbook advisor. Due to the publication timelines, the request must be made no later than the end of the first 9 weeks.

Additional Resources

St. Johns County School District provides year-round education by taking a course through St. Johns Virtual School. APEX is available for grades 6-12. If you have questions, please contact your child's school counselor.

Resources available throughout the year:

Florida Students.org - <https://www.floridastudents.org/>

FloridaStudents.org is provided and maintained by the Florida Department of Education and offers resources from all over the web to support your learning in language arts, mathematics, science, civics, and U.S. History with more than 800 original student tutorials.

Just Read Florida - <http://www.fldoe.org/academics/standards/just-read-fl/families/>

Just Read Florida is a comprehensive resource provided by the Florida Department of Education where parents can find tips, ideas, and resources to assist them in building their child's literacy skills from grades K-12.

What Happens If My Child Falls Behind?

Our Multi-Tiered Support System (MTSS) is a process that provides intervention and educational support to all students at increasing levels of intensity based on their individual academic and behavioral needs. The goal is to recognize problems and intervene early so that students can be successful. All St. Johns County schools have MTSS teams that use a problem-solving method to quickly identify students who need assistance and provide necessary instruction immediately.

The MTSS process has three tiers that provide increasing levels of support:

- **Tier I includes high quality instruction.** The school provides all students with access to high quality curriculum, instruction, and behavior supports in the general education classroom.
- **Tier II includes additional targeted, supplemental instruction/interventions.** The school provides interventions to small groups of students who need more support than they are receiving through Tier I.
- **Tier III includes intensive interventions.** The school develops and implements interventions to meet the individual needs of students.

If your child is involved in the MTSS process, his or her progress is monitored, and results are used to make decisions about additional instruction and intervention. You will be informed and involved in planning and providing interventions for your child. You will also receive frequent progress monitoring about how your child responds to the interventions provided. For more information, please contact the St. Johns County School District Student Success and Accountability Department at 904-547-8911, contact your school counselor or visit online: <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/intervention>.

Parent Glossary

Acronym	Definition	Acronym	Definition
ACT	<i>American College Test</i>	HAC	<i>Home Access Center</i>
AICE	<i>Advanced International Certificate of Education</i>	IB	<i>International Baccalaureate</i>
AP	<i>Advanced Placement</i>	IR	<i>Intensive Reading</i>
AR	<i>Accelerated Reader</i>	LEP	<i>Limited English Proficient</i>
AUP	<i>Acceptable Use Policy</i>	MTSS	<i>Multi-Tiered System Support</i>
AVID	<i>Advanced Via Individual Determination</i>	OLA	<i>On-line Assessments</i>
BEST	<i>Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking</i>	POC	<i>Programs of Choice</i>
CAST	<i>Curriculum Area Support Team</i>	PSAT	<i>Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test</i>
CBT	<i>Computer Based Testing</i>	PTO	<i>Parent Teacher Organization</i>
CC!	<i>CHARACTER COUNTS!</i>	PTSO	<i>Parent Teacher Student Organization</i>
CCRP	<i>Comprehensive Core Reading Program</i>	SAC	<i>School Advisory Council</i>
CLP	<i>Customized Learning Path</i>	SAT	<i>Scholastic Aptitude Test</i>
DBQ	<i>Document-Based Questioning</i>	SJVS	<i>St. Johns Virtual School</i>
DOE	<i>Department of Education</i>	SPP	<i>Student Progression Plan</i>
ELA	<i>English Language Arts</i>	VPK	<i>Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten</i>
EOC	<i>End-of-Course Exam</i>	YAG	<i>Year-at-a-Glance</i>
ESE	<i>Exceptional Student Education</i>	YRD	<i>Youth Resource Deputy</i>
ESOL	<i>English for Speakers of Other Languages</i>		
ESS	<i>Educational Support Services</i>		
FAST	<i>Florida Assessment of Student Thinking</i>		
FSAA	<i>Florida Standards Alternate Assessment</i>		

Florida Parent Checklist

The purpose of the Florida Parent Checklist¹ is to support parent's involvement in their child's educational progress by identifying actions and linking to resources² that:

- Strengthen the child's academic progress, especially in the area of reading;
- Strengthen the child's citizenship, especially social skills and respect for others;
- Strengthen the child's realization of high expectations and setting lifelong learning goals; and
- Emphasize communication between the school and the home.

ACADEMIC

- Support reading with age appropriate home activities.
- Ensure that your child has a consistent time and place to do homework.
- Ensure that your child has access to materials needed to complete assignments.
- Discuss schoolwork regularly with your child.
- Attend workshops on helping your child at home.
- Visit the local library and encourage your child to check out books of interest.
- Read to/with your child daily.
- Set an example by reading in your home and discussing what you've read with your child.
- Ask your child to explain his/her math homework.
- Emphasize the importance of education and doing one's best in school

RESOURCES:

- Just Read, Families <https://www.fl DOE.org/academics/standards/just-read-fl/families/>
- FloridaShines.org <https://www.floridashines.org/>
- FloridaStudents.org <https://www.floridastudents.org/>
- AskALibrarian.org <http://www.askalibrarian.org/>
- Special Education <https://www.pta.org/home/family-resources/Special-Education-Toolkit>

CITIZENSHIP

- Teach and reinforce positive behaviors such as respect for self and others, hard work and responsibility.
- Ensure that your child has a regular routine.
- Encourage your child to accept responsibility for his/her actions.
- Ensure that your child is in attendance and on time to school each day.
- Monitor and promote your child's participation in extracurricular and after-school activities.
- Monitor your child's television viewing.
- Reinforce the school's behavioral expectations.

RESOURCES:

- Positive Behavior Support Home Matrix
<http://flpbs.fmhi.usf.edu/revision07/family/PBS%20Home%20Matrix.pdf>

Helping Your Child Become a Responsible Citizen

<https://www2.ed.gov/parents/academic/help/citizen/citizen.pdf>

Bullying Prevention

<https://www.fl DOE.org/safe-schools/bullying-prevention.stml>

Engaging Youth in Service

<https://youth.gov/youth-topics/civic-engagement-and-volunteering>

SETTING GOALS

- Express the belief in your child's ability to be successful.
- Encourage your child to set short- and long term- educational goals.
- Celebrate academic accomplishments.

RESOURCES:

Financing Future Education Goals

<https://www.floridashines.org/go-to-college/pay-for-college>

SCHOOL TO HOME COMMUNICATION

- Communicate regularly with your child's teacher(s) in person, by phone, through email or writing.
- Prepare for and attend parent-teacher conferences and/or other individualized student meetings, such as Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) or Academic Improvement Plan meetings.
- Attend open houses, science fairs, plays and musical performances, field trips, sporting events, curriculum nights and other school activities.
- Volunteer in the school setting when possible.

RESOURCES:

The Parent-Teacher Conference

<http://www.readingrockets.org/article/19308>

¹ Reference Florida Statute 1002.23(3). The Florida Parent Checklist must be issued each school year to all parents of students in grades K-12. ² Resource links related to academics, citizenship, goal-setting, and communication should be considered as a guide to assist in the discovery of information to strengthen parental involvement.

Bibliography, Links and Cited Sources

St. Johns County School District <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/>

This website provides information on individual schools and departments, enrolling your child in school, zoning and transfers, bus routes, prevention education, special services, School Board meeting times and dates, Home Access Center, district calendar, middle and high school course catalogs, Student Progression Plan and much, much more!

Florida Department of Education www.fldoe.org

First Coast Technical College (FCTC) - Community Enrichment <http://fctc.edu/community/education/>

The National Parent Teacher Association <http://www.pta.org/>

US Department of Education www.ed.gov

Immunization requirements and meningococcal disease information for SJCSD students
<http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/health/immunization>

Literacy skills <http://www.fldoe.org/academics/standards/just-read-fl/>

Next Generation Sunshine State Standards <http://floridastandards.org>

St. Johns County Virtual Instruction Program <http://www-sjvs.stjohns.k12.fl.us>

St. Johns County Education Foundation (DBA Investing in Kids (INK)) www.ink-stjohns.org/

St. Johns County Public Library System <http://www.sjcpls.org/>

Parent and student resources, videos, etc. by grade and standard <http://floridastudents.org/#>

Year-at-a-Glance: Check recommended pacing and content standards using the year-at-a-glance document that is available at <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/year-at-a-glance/>

Appendix

- [Middle School Course Sequence](#)
- [High School Course Sequence](#)
- [Graduation Requirements](#)
- [Graduation Requirements for Florida State Assessments](#)
-



Middle School Course Sequence

For Honors or Advanced Course Placement: Grade “C” or better in previous honors course, grade “A” in the previous standard course with teacher recommendation, FSA Level 4 or 5 but not less than 3 in any area.

Language Arts			
	6 th	7 th	8 th
Standard	M/J Language Arts I	M/J Language Arts II	M/J Language Arts III
Advanced	M/J Language Arts I Advanced	M/J Language Arts II Advanced	M/J Language Arts III Advanced

Mathematics			
	6 th	7 th	8 th
Standard	Grade 6 Mathematics	Grade 7 Mathematics	Grade 8 Pre-Algebra
Advanced	Grade 6 Mathematics Accelerated	Grade 7 Mathematics Accelerated Algebra 1 Honors*	Algebra 1 Honors* Geometry Honors**

Accelerated pathways require supplemental work to be completed during the summer.

Algebra 1 Honors* Must pass the FSA Algebra 1 EOC and the FSA EOC grade is 30% of the final course grade. (Honors carries a 0.5 bonus weighting.)

Geometry Honors** Must take FSA Geometry EOC and the FSA Geometry EOC grade is 30% of the final course grade. (Honors carries a 0.5 bonus weighting.)

Science				
	6 th	7 th	8 th	9 th
Standard	M/J Comprehensive Science 1	M/J Comprehensive Science 2	M/J Comprehensive Science 3	Environmental Science
Advanced	M/J Advanced Comprehensive Science 1	M/J Advanced Comprehensive Science 2	M/J Advanced Comprehensive Science 3 or **Honors Physical Science	Biology Honors or Physical Science Honors
Highly Advanced	#M/J Comprehensive Science Accelerated Honors 1	M/J Comprehensive Science Accelerated Honors 2	*Biology Honors	Chemistry Honors or Physics Honors

Required Pre-requisites:

- # M/J Comprehensive Science Accelerated Honors 1: Concurrent enrollment in M/J 6th Advanced Math and a scaled score of at least 344 (mid-level 4) or higher on Florida State Assessment for Reading in Grade 5 is required for enrollment in M/J Comprehensive Science Accelerated Honors 1 and Accelerated Honors 2 are required pre-requisites for eligibility to enroll in Biology Honors for a middle school student enrolled in a school that offers Biology Honors. Students enrolled in M/J Comprehensive Science Accelerated Honors 1 must be concurrently enrolled in M/J 6th grade Advanced Math and have a scaled score of 344 or higher on Florida State Assessment for Reading in Grade 5.
- Biology Honors: Science Accelerated Honors 1 and Science Accelerated Honors 2 are required pre-requisites for a middle school student to enroll in Biology Honors

##Students enrolled in Honors Biology in 8th grade, should be concurrently enrolled in Geometry Honors. The students should have completed the Accelerated Honors Course pathway and have an FSA reading level of 4 or higher. Students enrolled in Biology Honors in grade 8 will take the Statewide Biology End of Course Assessment (EOC) and it will constitute 30% of the student’s grade for the year.

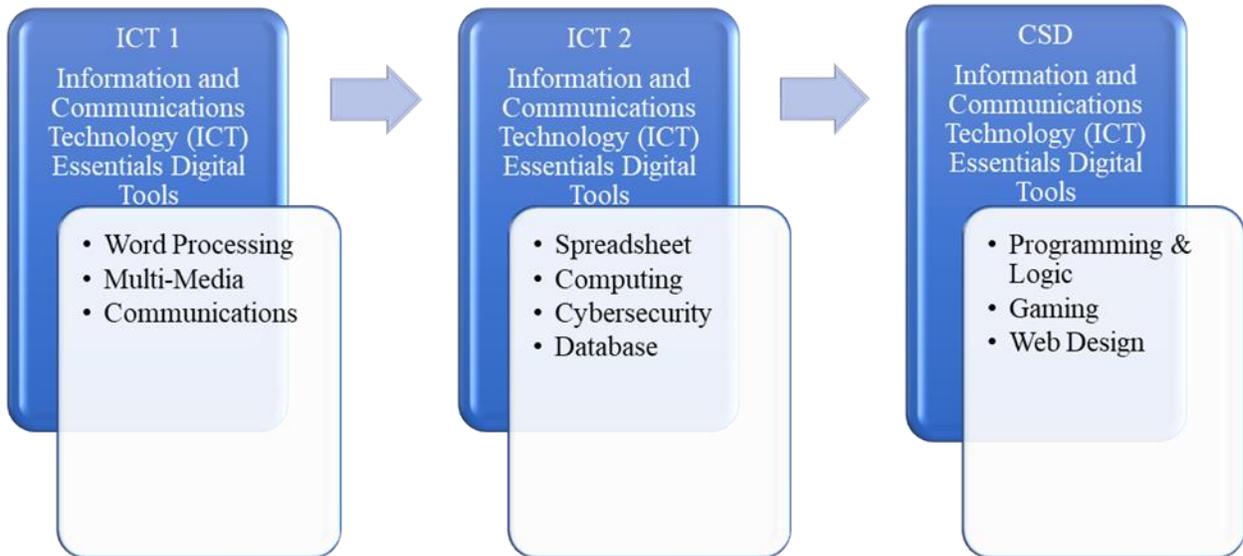
**Students enrolled in Honors Physical Science in grade 8 will take the Statewide Science Assessment (SSA) at the end of the school year and should be concurrently enrolled in Algebra 1 Honors, or a higher-level math course.

***7th grade students in an advanced science or social studies course should participate in National History Day or Secondary STEM Fair with a project.

Social Studies			
	6th	7th	8th
Standard	M/J World History	M/J US History and Career Planning	M/J US History and Career Planning (2022-2023) M/J Civics (2023-2024)
Advanced	M/J World History Advanced	M/J US History Advanced and Career Planning	M/J US History Advanced and Career Planning (2022-2023) M/J Civics (2023-2024)

*8th grade students needing to meet the middle grades Civics requirement will be enrolled in M/J Civics – EOC is 30% of final grade or enrolled in M/J Civics Advanced – EOC is 30% of final grade

Middle School Computer Education Progression (Recommended)



Students can earn digital tool certificates through Middle School ICT courses.

Electives

Middle school students in SJCS D have opportunities to explore visual art, performing art, physical education and STEM.

*Note: Not all courses are available at all schools.

High School Course Sequence

For Honors or Advanced Course Placement: Grade “C” or better in previous honors course, grade “A” in the previous standard course with teacher recommendation, FSA Level 4 or 5 but not less than 3 in any area.

Language Arts					
	9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th	
Standard	English I	English II	English III	English IV	
Honors	English I Honors	English II Honors	English III Honors	English IV Honors	
AP/DE			AP English Language and Composition DE Composition I	AP English Literature and Language Arts DE Composition II	
AICE	Pre-AICE English Language	AICE English Language	AICE English Literature 1	AICE English Literature 2	
IB	English I – Pre-IB	English II – Pre-IB	English III – IB	English IV - IB	
Language Arts Electives	Creative Writing I Journalism I Speech I Applied Communications	Creative Writing II Journalism II Speech II	Creative Writing III Journalism III	Creative Writing IV, Creative Writing V Journalism IV Journalism V Honors Writing for College Success Reading for College Success	

Mathematics					
	9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th	
Standard	Algebra 1*	Geometry** Liberal Arts Math 1	Algebra 2 Mathematics for College Liberal Arts	Algebra 2 Mathematics for College Liberal Arts Mathematics for Data and Financial Literacy Honors	
Honors (0.5 bonus weighting)	Algebra 1 Honors* Geometry Honors** Algebra 2 Honors	Geometry Honors** Algebra 2 Honors Probability/Statistics Honors Pre-Calculus Honors	Algebra 2 Honors Pre-Calculus Honors Probability/Statistics Honors	Probability/Statistics Honors Pre-Calculus Honors	
Advanced Courses					
The courses listed below carry a 1.0 bonus weighting and are typically taken in the junior and senior years after pre – requisite courses. Course offerings vary by school. Check with your guidance counselor to determine which courses are available at your school.					
<u>AP – Advanced Placement</u>	<u>DE – Dual Enrollment</u>	<u>AICE – Advanced International Certificate of Education</u>	<u>IB – International Baccalaureate</u>		
Statistics Calculus AB/BC	College Algebra Upper Level Math				

Advanced courses may require supplemental work to be completed during the summer.

Algebra 1 and Algebra 1 Honors* Must pass the Algebra 1 EOC and the EOC grade is 30% of the final course grade (Honors carries a 0.5 bonus weighting).

Geometry and Geometry Honors** Must pass the Geometry EOC and the EOC grade is 30% of the final course grade (Honors carries a 0.5 bonus weighting).

Science				
	9 th	10 th	11 th	*12 th
Standard	Environmental Science	** Biology	Chemistry Earth Space Marine Science Anatomy	Chemistry Earth Space Marine Science Anatomy
Honors	** Biology Honors or Physical Science Honors or Chemistry Honors or Physics Honors or Anatomy Honors	** Biology Honors or Physics Honors or Chemistry Honors or Anatomy Honors	Anatomy Honors Chemistry Honors Physics Honors Marine Science Honors Advanced Placement or Dual Enrollment for the student with appropriate pre and co-requisites.	Anatomy Honors Marine Sci. Honors Physics Honors Chemistry Honors Advanced Placement or Dual Enrollment for the student with appropriate pre and co-requisites.
Honors International Programs	Pre IB Biology Pre IB Chemistry Pre IB Physics Advanced Placement Courses Pre AICE Biology Pre AICE Chemistry OR other advanced coursework for which student has appropriate pre and co-requisites.	Physics Honors Chemistry Honors Pre IB Chemistry Pre IB Physics	AICE, IB, Advanced Placement or Dual En- rollment for the student with appropriate pre and co-requisites.	AICE, IB, Advanced Placement or Dual En- rollment for the student with appropriate pre and co-requisites.

*A FOURTH SCIENCE IS RECOMMENDED, BUT NOT MANDATORY.

** Students enrolled in Biology, Biology Honors, Pre-IB Biology or Pre-AICE Biology take the Florida Biology End-of-Course Assessment and it will constitute 30% of the student's final grade.

Science and Math Prerequisites and Co-requisites for Chemistry and Physics Courses

Course	Science Prerequisite	FSA Prerequisite	Math Prerequisite	Math Co-requisite
Biology	Environmental Science			
Biology Honors	Physical Science Honors or Adv. 8 th grade Science.	Recommend Level 4 or 5, no less than a strong L 3.		Geometry Honors or higher
Chemistry	Biology	Recommend Level 4 or 5, no less than a strong L 3.	Earned a grade of at least a C in Algebra 1	Algebra 2
Chemistry Honors	Previously earned at least a C in Biology Honors	Recommend Level 4 or 5, no less than a strong L 3.	Earned a grade of at least a C in Algebra 1 Honors	Algebra 2 Honors
Physical Science Honors		Recommend Level 4 or 5, no less than a strong L 3.		Algebra 1 Honors
Physics Honors	Earned a grade of at least a C in previous honors science course	Recommend Level 4 or 5, no less than a strong L 3.	Earned a grade of at least a C in Algebra 1 Honors	Algebra 2 Honors
Anatomy	Earned a grade of at least a C in Biology course	Recommend L3 or higher.		
Anatomy Honors	Previously earned at least a C in Biology Honors	Recommend L3 or higher.		

Social Studies				
	9th	10th	11th	12th
Standard	World Cultural Geography (E) African American History (E) Examining the African American Experience in the 20 th Century (E)	World History (WH) Psychology I (E) Psychology II (E) Sociology (E) Contemporary History (E) Law Studies (E)	United States History (USH) - EOC is 30% of final grade Psychology I (E) Psychology II (E) Sociology (E) Contemporary History (E) Law Studies (E)	Economics with Financial Literacy (ECO) United States Government (USG) Psychology I (E) Psychology II (E) Sociology (E) Contemporary History (E) Law Studies (E)
Advanced	World Cultural Geography (E) Humanities I Honors (E) Humanities II Honors (E) International Relations 2 Honors (E) African American History Honors (E) Holocaust History Honors (E)	World History Honors (WH) Psychology I (E) Psychology II (E) Sociology (E) Contemporary History (E) Law Studies (E)	United States History Honors (USH) – EOC is 30% of final grade Psychology I (E) Psychology II (E) Sociology (E) Contemporary History (E) Law Studies (E)	Economics with Financial Literacy Honors (ECO) United States Government Honors (USG) Psychology I (E) Psychology II (E) Sociology (E) Contemporary History (E) Law Studies (E)
Highly Advanced	AP Human Geography (E) AICE Geography (SAHS) (E) AP World History (NHS) (WH) IB Psychology I (NHS) (E)	AP World History (WH) AP European History (E) AICE International History (SAHS) (WH) AP Psychology (E) AP United States Government and Politics (NHS) (USG) IB Psychology 1 (NHS) (E)	AP United States History (USH) AP European History (E) AICE United States History (SAHS) (USH) AICE AS Global Perspectives (SAHS) (E) AP U.S. History (NHS) (USH) IB History of Americas (PMHS) (USH) IB Psychology 1 (PMHS) (E) IB Psychology 2 (NHS) (E) DE AMH (USH) AP Capstone Seminar (E)	AP Macroeconomics (ECO) AP Microeconomics (ECO) AP United States Government & Politics (USG) AICE European History (E) AP Comparative Government and Politics (E) AICE European History (SAHS) (WH) AICE AL Global Perspectives (SAHS) (E) IB History of Americas (NHS) (USH) IB Psychology 2 (PMHS) (E) IB Psychology 3 (NHS) (E) IB Contemporary History (PMHS) (E) DE POS (USG) AP Capstone Research (E)

E – Elective Course

WH – satisfies World History Credit

USH – satisfies United States History requirement – EOC is 30% of final grade.

ECO – satisfies Economics course requirement

*Section 1003.4282(3)(d), FS, requires one-half credit in economics, which must include financial literacy.

USG – satisfies United States Government requirement

SAHS – AICE progression at St. Augustine High School

NHS – IB progression at Nease High School

PMHS – IB progression at Pedro Menendez High School

Additional course offerings available at each high school.

***Note: Not all courses are available at all schools.**

Graduation Requirements

Standard Diploma Requirements

Academic Advisement – What Students and Parents Need to Know

What are the diploma options?

Students must successfully complete one of the following diploma options:

- 24-credit standard diploma
- 18-credit Academically Challenging Curriculum to Enhance Learning (ACCEL)
- Career and Technical Education (CTE) Pathway
- Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) curriculum
- International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma curriculum

What are the state assessment requirements?

Students must pass the following statewide assessments:

- Grade 10 English Language Arts (ELA) or a concordant score
- Algebra 1 end of course (EOC) or a comparative score

Refer to [Graduation Requirements for Florida's Statewide Assessments](#) for concordant and comparative scores.

Students enrolled in the following courses must participate in the corresponding EOC assessment, which constitutes 30 percent of the final course grade⁺:

- Algebra 1
- Geometry
- Biology 1
- U.S. History

⁺Special note: Thirty percent not applicable if not enrolled in the course but passed the EOC (credit acceleration program [CAP]).

What is the difference between the 18-credit ACCEL option and the 24-credit option?

- 3 elective credits instead of 8
- Physical Education is not required
- Online course is not required

What is the difference between the CTE Pathway option and the 24-credit option?

- At least 18 credits are required
- 4 elective credits instead of 8
 - 2 credits in CTE courses, must result in completion and industry certification
 - 2 credits in work-based learning programs or up to 2 elective credits including financial literacy
- Physical Education is not required
- Fine and Performing Arts, Speech and Debate, or Practical Arts is not required
- Online course is not required

24 Credit Standard Diploma

4 Credits ELA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ELA 1, 2, 3, 4 • ELA honors, Advanced Placement (AP), AICE, IB and dual enrollment courses may satisfy this requirement
4 Credits Mathematics*
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One of which must be Algebra 1 and one of which must be Geometry • Industry Certifications that lead to college credit may substitute for up to two mathematics credits (except for Algebra 1 and Geometry) • An identified computer science** credit may substitute for up to one mathematics credit (except for Algebra 1 and Geometry)
3 Credits Science
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One of which must be Biology 1, two of which must be equally rigorous science courses • Two of the three required course credits must have a laboratory component • Industry Certifications that lead to college credit may substitute for up to one science credit (except for Biology 1) • An identified computer science** credit may substitute for up to one science credit (except for Biology 1)
3 Credits Social Studies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 credit in World History • 1 credit in U.S. History • 0.5 credit in U.S. Government • 0.5 credit in Economics
1 Credit Fine and Performing Arts, Speech and Debate, or Practical Arts*
1 Credit Physical Education*
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To include the integration of health
8 Elective Credits
1 Online Course
<p>Students must earn a 2.0 grade point average (GPA) on a 4.0 scale for all cohort years and pass statewide, standardized assessments unless a waiver of assessment results is granted by the IEP team for students with disabilities.</p>

* Eligible courses are specified in the [Florida Course Code Directory](#).

**A computer science credit may not be used to substitute for both a mathematics and science credit.

Scholar Diploma Designation

In addition to meeting the 24-credit standard high school diploma requirements, a student must meet all of the following requirements:

- Earn 1 credit in Algebra 2 or an equally rigorous course
- Pass the Geometry EOC
- Earn 1 credit in Statistics or an equally rigorous mathematics course
- Pass the Biology 1 EOC*
- Earn 1 credit in Chemistry or Physics
- Earn 1 credit in a course equally rigorous to Chemistry or Physics
- Pass the U.S. History EOC*
- Earn 2 credits in the same World Language
- Earn at least 1 credit in an AP, IB, AICE or a dual enrollment course

*A student is exempt from the Biology 1 or U.S. History EOC assessment if the student is enrolled in an AP, IB or AICE Biology 1 or U.S. History course; takes the respective AP, IB or AICE assessment; and earns the minimum score to earn college credit.

Merit Diploma Designation

- Meet the standard high school diploma requirements
- Attain one or more [industry certifications](#) from the list established (per s. 1003.492, F.S.)

What are the additional graduation options for students with disabilities ?

Two additional options are available only to students with disabilities. Both allow students to substitute a CTE course with related content for one credit in ELA 4, mathematics, science and social studies (excluding Algebra 1, Geometry, Biology 1 and U.S. History). The two options are as follows:

- Students with significant cognitive disabilities may earn credits via access courses and be assessed via an alternate assessment.
- Students who choose the academic and employment option must earn at least 0.5 credit via paid employment.

What is the CAP?

The CAP allows a student to earn high school credit if the student passes an AP examination, a College Level Examination Program (CLEP) or a statewide course assessment without enrollment in the course. The courses include:

- Algebra 1
- Geometry
- Biology 1
- U.S. History



State University System (SUS)

Admission into Florida's public universities is competitive. Prospective students should complete a rigorous course of study in high school and apply to more than one university to increase their chance for acceptance. To qualify to enter one of Florida's public universities, a first-time-in-college student must meet the following minimum requirements (credit earned by industry certification does not count for SUS admission):

- High school graduation with a standard diploma, a minimum of a 2.5 GPA, and admission test scores meeting minimum college-ready test scores per Board of Governors (BOG) Regulation 6.008
- 16 credits of approved college preparatory academic courses per BOG Regulation 6.002
- 4 English (3 with substantial writing)
- 4 Mathematics (Algebra 1 level and above)
- 3 Natural Science (2 with substantial lab)
- 3 Social Science
- 2 World Language (sequential, in the same language or other equivalents)
- 2 approved electives

[State University System of Florida](#)

The Florida College System

The 28 colleges of the Florida College System serve nearly 800,000 students. Colleges offer affordable and stackable workforce credentials including certificate programs, associate in science degrees and associate in arts degrees, which transfer to a bachelor's degree program. Many colleges also offer workforce bachelor's degree programs in areas of high demand. All Florida College System institutions have open-door admissions for students who earned a standard high school diploma or an equivalent diploma or successfully earned college credit.

[Florida College System](#)

Career and Technical Colleges and Centers

Florida also offers students 49 accredited career and technical colleges or centers throughout the state, which provide the education and certification necessary to work in a particular career or technical field. Programs are flexible for students and provide industry-specific education and training for a wide variety of occupations.

[Career and Technical Education Directors](#)

Where is information on financial aid located?

The Florida Department of Education's Office of Student Financial Assistance administers a variety of postsecondary educational state-funded grants and scholarships.

[Office of Student Financial Assistance](#)

August 2020

Graduation Requirements for Florida Statewide Assessments

Overview

According to Florida law, students must meet certain academic requirements to earn a standard high school diploma from a public school. This means that students must pass required courses, earn a minimum number of credits, earn a minimum grade point average, and pass the required statewide assessments. Students who meet these requirements but do not pass the required assessments will receive a certificate of completion, which is not equivalent to a standard high school diploma. Passing scores for the statewide assessments are determined by the State Board of Education (SBE).

Graduation Requirements

Grade 10 English Language Arts

The English Language Arts (ELA) assessment students must pass to graduate with a standard high school diploma is determined by each student's year of enrollment in grade 9. The Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST) assessments, aligned to the Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking (B.E.S.T.) Standards, are being administered for the first time in the 2022–23 school year. Students must earn a passing grade 10 ELA Reading score in the third progress monitoring window (PM3) to meet this graduation requirement. In accordance with [section \(s.\) 1008.22](#), Florida Statutes (F.S.), all students enrolled in grade 10 are required to participate in the grade 10 ELA assessment regardless of whether they have a passing concordant score on file.

While the Grade 10 Florida Standards Assessments (FSA) ELA Assessment was administered for the final time in spring 2022, it will continue to be offered during the fall and spring as a retake administration for students who need to meet their graduation requirement. Students enrolled in grades 11–adult education may not participate in the FAST Grade 10 ELA Reading PM3 administration; however, in the 2023–24 school year and beyond, students with the Grade 10 FSA ELA requirement may satisfy it by earning an alternate passing score on the FAST ELA Reading Retake.

Table 1 below lists the required passing score for the Grade 10 ELA assessment based on grade 9 cohort.

Table 1: ELA Assessment Requirement and Passing Score by School Year

School Year When Students Entered Grade 9	Assessment	Passing Score
2021–22	FAST ELA Reading	350 ¹
2014–15 to 2020–21 ²	FSA ELA	350
2013–14	FSA ELA	349 ³

¹ For the 2022–23 school year, scores for FAST assessments are linked to the 2021–2022 reporting scale, as required by law. Students who take the FAST Grade 10 ELA Reading Assessment prior to the adoption of the passing score by the State Board of Education will be able to use this score to meet their graduation requirement.

² Please see the 2020–21 School Year and 2019–20 School Year sections of this document for additional information on requirements for students scheduled to graduate in these school years.

³ In addition to the 2013–14 cohort, any student who took the assessment prior to the adoption of the passing score on the new scale adopted by the SBE (January 7, 2016) is eligible to use the alternate passing score for graduation, which is linked to the passing score for the previous assessment requirement.

For more information on the Grade 10 FAST ELA Reading Assessment, please see the [2022–23 FAST Grades 3–10 ELA Reading and Grades 3–8 Mathematics Fact Sheet](#).

Algebra 1 End-of-Course Assessment

The Algebra 1 End-of-Course (EOC) assessment students must pass to graduate with a standard high school diploma is determined by when students completed Algebra 1 or an equivalent course. Students who complete an applicable course in the 2022–23 school year are required to pass the B.E.S.T. Algebra 1 EOC assessment. In accordance with [s. 1008.22](#), F.S., students enrolled in Algebra 1 or an equivalent course are required to participate in the Algebra 1 EOC assessment, regardless of whether they have a passing comparative score on file.

The FSA Algebra 1 EOC Assessment will be administered for the final time in the fall 2022 administration but will continue to be available as a retake administration in the spring and fall for those who need to meet their graduation requirement. Students may also meet this requirement by earning a passing score on the B.E.S.T. Algebra 1 EOC Assessment. Once the new scale is adopted for the B.E.S.T. Algebra 1 EOC Assessment, students with the FSA requirement will be able to use the alternate passing score on the B.E.S.T. scale.

Table 2 below lists the required passing score for the FSA Algebra 1 EOC Assessment based on when the student first participated.

Table 2: Algebra 1 EOC Assessment Requirement and Passing Score by First Participation

First Participation in Algebra 1 EOC	Assessment	Passing Score
Winter 2022 and beyond	B.E.S.T. Algebra 1 EOC	497 ¹
Spring 2016–Spring 2022 ²	FSA Algebra 1 EOC	497
Spring, Summer, Fall or Winter 2015	FSA Algebra 1 EOC	489 ³

¹ For the 2022–23 school year, scores for B.E.S.T. assessments are linked to the 2021-2022 reporting scale, as required by law. Students who take the B.E.S.T. Algebra 1 EOC Assessment prior to the adoption of the passing score on the new B.E.S.T. scale by the State Board of Education will be able to use this score to meet their graduation requirement. Once the B.E.S.T. score scale is established, this alternate score will be linked to provide a new alternate passing score on the B.E.S.T. scale.

² Please see the 2020–21 School Year and 2019–20 School Year sections of this document for additional information on requirements for students scheduled to graduate in these school years.

³ Any student who took the assessment prior to the adoption of the passing score on the new scale adopted by the SBE (January 7, 2016) is eligible to use the alternate passing score for graduation, which is linked to the passing score for the previous assessment requirement.

For more information on the B.E.S.T. Algebra 1 EOC Assessment, please see the [B.E.S.T. Assessments webpage](#).

Graduation Options

- **Statewide Assessment Retakes**—Students can participate in the grade 10 ELA Retake or the Algebra 1 EOC assessment each time the test is administered until they achieve a passing score, and students can continue their high school education beyond the twelfth-grade year should they need additional instruction. Please see the [Statewide Assessment Schedule](#) page for more information on the administration windows for these assessments.
- **Concordant and Comparative Scores**—A student can also meet assessment graduation requirements by earning a concordant or comparative score as specified in [Rule 6A-1.09422](#), Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.). Tables 3 and 4 show the concordant and comparative scores students may use to satisfy assessment graduation requirements.

Table 3: Grade 10 ELA Concordant Scores

Grade 10 FAST ELA Reading ¹ , Grade 10 FSA ELA or Grade 10 FCAT 2.0 Reading	
Available for all students who entered grade 9 in 2010–11 and beyond:	
SAT Evidence-Based Reading and Writing (EBRW) ²	480
ACT English and Reading subtests ³	18
Available only for students who entered grade 9 prior to 2019–20:	
SAT EBRW ²	430
SAT Reading Subtest ⁴	24
ACT Reading	19

¹ Students whose graduation requirement is the Grade 10 FAST ELA Reading Assessment may use concordant scores aligned to the FSA Grade 10 ELA Assessment (those listed for all students who entered grade 9 in 2010–11 and beyond) until the State Board of Education adopts concordant scores aligned to the Grade 10 FAST ELA Reading Assessment and determines the date by which students must begin using the new concordant scores.

² Administered in March 2016 or beyond. The combined score for the EBRW must come from the same administration of the Reading and Writing subtests.

³ The average of the English and Reading subtests. If the average of the two subject test scores results in a decimal (.5), the score shall be rounded up to the next whole number. The scores for the English and Reading subject tests are not required to come from the same test administration.

⁴ Administered in March 2016 or beyond. Students who entered grade 9 prior to 2019–20 may also use a concordant score of 430 on the SAT Critical Reading if administered prior to March 2016.

Table 4: Algebra 1 EOC Comparative Scores

Algebra 1 EOC (B.E.S.T. ¹ , FSA, NGSSS)	
Available for <i>all</i> students who entered grade 9 in 2010–11 and beyond:	
PSAT/NMSQT Math ²	430
SAT Math ³	420
ACT Math	16
FSA or B.E.S.T. Geometry EOC ⁴	499
Available <i>only</i> for students who entered grade 9 prior to 2019–20:	
PERT Mathematics	97

¹ Students whose assessment graduation requirement is the B.E.S.T. Algebra 1 EOC Assessment may use comparative scores aligned to the FSA Algebra 1 EOC Assessment (those listed for all students who entered grade 9 in 2010–11 and beyond) until the State Board of Education adopts concordant scores aligned to the B.E.S.T. Algebra 1 EOC Assessment and determines the date by which students must begin using the new comparative scores.

² Administered in 2015 or beyond. Students who entered grade 9 in 2010–11 and beyond may also use a comparative score of 39 on PSAT/NMSQT Math if it was earned prior to 2015.

³ Administered in March 2016 or beyond. Students who entered grade 9 in 2010–11 and beyond may also use a comparative score of 380 on SAT Math if it was earned prior to March 2016.

⁴ Students eligible for either the FSA Algebra 1 EOC alternate passing score of 489 or the FSA Geometry EOC passing score of 492, as defined by [Rule 6A-1.09422\(6\)-\(7\)](#), F.A.C., may use the alternate passing score of 492 on the FSA Geometry EOC as an Algebra 1 EOC comparative score. See the Scholar Diploma Designation section below for eligibility criteria.

- **Scholar Diploma Designation**—In accordance with s. [1003.4285\(1\)\(a\)](#), F.S., to qualify for a Scholar diploma designation on a standard high school diploma, a student must earn a passing score on each of the statewide assessments shown in Table 5.

Table 5: Passing Scores Required for a Scholar Diploma Designation

Student Entered Ninth Grade	EOC Assessment		
	Geometry	Biology 1 ¹	U.S. History ¹
2010–11 through 2013–14		X	X
2014–15 and beyond	X	X	X

¹ A student meets this requirement without passing the Biology 1 or U.S. History EOC assessment if the student is enrolled in an Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), or Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) Biology 1 or U.S. History course and the student:

- Takes the respective AP, IB, or AICE assessment, and
- Earns the minimum score to earn college credit.

The passing score for each EOC assessment is the minimum score in Achievement Level 3. Students participating in the Biology 1 and/or U.S. History EOC assessment must earn a Level 3 on the [NGSSS scale](#) to achieve a passing score. For the 2022–23 school year, students participating in the B.E.S.T. Geometry EOC prior to the adoption of B.E.S.T. cut scores in fall 2023 must earn a Level 3 on the [FSA scale](#).

The passing score for the FSA Geometry EOC Assessment was adopted in SBE rule in January 2016. For students who took the FSA Geometry EOC Assessment in the 2014–15 school year or in 2016 prior to the adoption of the new passing scores, the alternate passing score is 492. Students who are eligible for this alternate passing score may also use it as a comparative score for the Algebra 1 EOC graduation requirement.

- **Waivers of Results for Students with Disabilities**—Students with disabilities working toward a standard high school diploma are expected to participate in statewide, standardized assessments. State law, however, provides for a waiver of statewide, standardized assessment results for graduation purposes for students with disabilities whose abilities cannot be accurately measured by the assessments. Pursuant to s. 1008.22(3)(c)2., F.S., “A student with a disability, as defined in s. 1007.02(2), for whom the individual education plan (IEP) team determines that the statewide, standardized assessments under this section cannot accurately measure the student’s abilities, taking into consideration all allowable accommodations, shall have assessment results waived for the purpose of receiving a course grade and a standard high school diploma. Such waiver shall be designated on the student’s transcript.” For additional information, visit the [Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services webpage](#).

- **High School Equivalency Diploma Program (2014 GED® Test)**—The high school equivalency diploma program is designed to provide an opportunity for adults who have not graduated from high school to earn a GED®, the only state-approved high school equivalency diploma, by measuring the major academic skills and knowledge associated with a high school program of study, with increased emphasis on workplace and higher education. The state selected the 2014 GED® test as the assessment for the high school equivalency program during a competitive process conducted in 2014. The 2014 GED® test includes four required content area tests: Reasoning through Language Arts, Mathematical Reasoning, Science, and Social Studies. It is a computer-based test. Passing the test may require some preparation. Adult education programs located in school districts, colleges, and community organizations provide instruction and the opportunity to practice the skills necessary to meet the minimum passing score of **145**. The FDOE website has additional information and resources regarding the [GED® test](#) and the [high school equivalency program](#).

2020–21 School Year

Pursuant to FDOE [Emergency Order No. 2021-EO-02](#), outstanding assessment graduation requirements for seniors scheduled to graduate in spring 2021 were waived. While the requirements themselves (detailed in this document) did not change, this specific group of students are not required to meet them if they had not already done so. Districts were also authorized to waive Biology 1, Geometry, and/or U.S. History EOC assessment requirements for Scholar diploma designation purposes for students expected to graduate in the spring of 2021.

Emergency Order No. 2020-EO-0 also authorized districts and charter school governing boards to determine promotion and final course grades in classes with state EOC exams based solely on student performance in the course, including in instances where the student did not have a score from the EOC exam. This authorization applied to courses students successfully completed in the 2020–21 school year.

2019–20 School Year

Pursuant to Florida Department of Education (FDOE) [Emergency Order No. 2020-EO-01](#), the spring administration of K–12 statewide assessments for the 2019–20 school year that were scheduled to take place after March 16, 2020, were canceled and any outstanding assessment graduation requirements for seniors scheduled to graduate in spring 2020 were waived. While the requirements themselves (detailed in this document) did not change, this specific group of students are not required to meet them if they had not already done so.

For non-seniors who were enrolled in grade 10 and/or Algebra 1 (or an equivalent course) during spring 2020 and who were scheduled to take the grade 10 English Language Arts (ELA) and/or Algebra 1 end-of-course (EOC) assessments, Emergency Order No. 2020-EO-01 waived the requirement that these students participate in the applicable assessment. However, these students are still required to meet these graduation requirements by passing the applicable assessment during a future administration or by earning the appropriate concordant or comparative score, as detailed in tables 3 and 4. These students may participate in any ELA Retake or applicable EOC administration to meet their graduation requirement but are not required to do so prior to using a concordant or comparative score.

Finally, participation and 30% final grade calculation requirements for students who were scheduled to take a spring 2020 EOC assessment were waived. However, students who need to pass the Biology 1, Geometry, and/or U.S. History EOC assessment for Scholar diploma designation purposes must still do so to earn the designation. These students may participate in any applicable EOC administration to meet the Scholar diploma designation requirements.

High School Competency Test (HSCT) Requirement—The HSCT SBE Rule ([6A-1.09421, F.A.C.](#)) was repealed in fall 2015. Students who were scheduled to graduate in 2002 or earlier and have not passed the HSCT as part of their graduation requirements will need to enroll in an adult education program to earn a standard high school diploma. In accordance with [Rule 6A-6.020, F.A.C.](#), those who enter adult high school after their ninth-grade cohort has graduated or who are not part of a ninth-grade cohort must meet the current grade 12 cohort’s graduation requirements that are in effect the year they enter adult high school.

Helpful Resources

- For a full schedule of all statewide assessments, see the [2022–2023 Statewide Assessment Schedule](#).
- An academic advisement flyer for students related to graduation requirements is available on the [Graduation Requirements](#) page.
- The [FL FAST Portal](#) provides information about the assessments currently administered and serves to provide valuable resources to students, parents/guardians, and educators.
- [FloridaStudents.org](#) provides student tutorials and resources for the Florida Standards.
- [CPALMS.org](#) is Florida’s official source for standards information and course descriptions and includes helpful resources for educators and students.