



**Accountability and Intervention Services**  
*Open – Transparent – Collaboration*  
**St. Johns County School District**  
**Guidance**  
**Executive Order 2021-EO-02**

**Guidance Overview**

**1. Are state assessments (FSA and EOCs) still planned for the 2020-21 school year?**

Yes. State assessments are scheduled as follows:

April 2021: Grade 3 Reading

Grades 4-10 Writing

May 2021: Grades 4-10 Reading

Grades 3-8 Mathematics

Grades 5 and 8 Science

Grades 9 – 12 State EOC exams in U.S. History, Algebra 1, Geometry, and Biology 1

Grades 6 – 8 State EOC exams in Middle School EOCs are in Civics, Algebra 1, Geometry, and Biology 1

**2. Will St. Johns County Virtual School or School-Based Distance Learning students be provided an onsite schedule to complete state assessments?**

St. Johns County Virtual School or School-Based Distance Learning students will receive a schedule of testing times and locations.

The Florida Department of Education (FDOE) requires that all state assessments be completed in person and on campus in accordance with testing security and validity protocols.

In keeping with health and wellness practices, flexibility with testing schedules has been granted by the state. The flexibility allows the St. Johns County School District to accommodate appropriate space limitations, maintain social distancing, and ensure proper sanitizing of all testing sites.

**3. How will taking the Spring 2021 assessments benefit my child?**

Student assessments this spring will be used to assess how students are performing according to the grade-level standards in the specific subject area. Parents will receive detailed reports from the assessment results to measure how their child is performing according to grade-level standards. Schools and teachers will use the results to identify learning gaps and identify additional supports needed for students next school year. The results will also benefit teachers and school leaders as they plan for curriculum adjustments for 2021-22 and allocate additional resources to accelerate student learning.



**4. How has the state/district adjusted its plan for assessment results considering the pandemic and possible learning loss?**

Results from all state FSA and EOC assessments will only impact student grades if the score helps the student. Spring 2021 state assessment results will not be used to determine promotion or retention.

For individual students, assessment scores will strictly be used to diagnose performance of grade-level standards and to determine student learning supports moving forward.

**5. What steps are being taken to keep students and staff safe during the upcoming Spring assessments?**

For students currently receiving in-person instruction at their schools, testing structures will be like previous school years but will be adjusted in keeping with current health and wellness protocols (masks, social distancing, etc.).

For students currently in virtual instruction (St. Johns County Virtual School or School-Based Distance Learning), families are asked to remain in contact with their school to determine the most efficient and safest method for in-person, on-campus testing. St. Johns County Schools will continue to ensure the safest testing environments possible. The multi-layered health and wellness efforts include:

- a. Daily cleaning of testing locations.
- b. Social distancing between test-takers.
- c. Required face coverings/masks for students and adults.
- d. No sharing of materials.

**6. Even after talking to the school and considering the enhanced testing protocols in place, what if I still am not comfortable sending my student to school to test?**

Parents who choose not to have their child take one or more Florida Standards Assessments will not receive the grade-level performance data for their child. Students will not be academically penalized; however, please note that schools will not have the data to assist with personalized learning paths. Parents of third graders refer to question 8 below.

**7. Will schools still receive a letter grade as in previous years?**

For the 2020-21 school year, school grades will not be automatically calculated for schools by the Florida Department of Education (FDOE). In lieu of school grades, the FDOE will be posting all federally required data on the Florida Know Your Schools website (<https://edudata.fldoe.org/>).

A grade for a school will only be calculated by the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) if our district requests for this to occur. For a school grade to be calculated, a school must meet the criteria set by the FDOE.



Student-specific performance data will be provided to parents/guardians, as done each year. School and district aggregate data will be publicly available through the Florida Know Your Schools website.

## Elementary Grades

### 8. What is the SJCS D Guidance for Third Grade Promotion 2020-21?

*Persuant DOE Order NO 2021-EO-02* third grade students are still required to demonstrate the equivalent of at least a Level 2 performance on the third grade Florida Standards Assessment (FSA) in ELA. A student may be promoted to grade four, regardless of the absence of an ELA FSA score or the absence of a Level 2 or higher ELA FSA score, through an approved path.

#### What are the approved paths for 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Promotion?

##### Good Cause Exemptions

1. Limited English proficient students who have had less than two (2) years of instruction in an English for Speakers of Other Languages program
2. Students with disabilities whose Individual Education Plan (IEP) indicates that participation in the statewide assessment program is not appropriate, consistent with requirements of State Board of Education Rule.
3. Students who demonstrate an acceptable level of performance on an alternate standardized reading assessment approved by the State Board of Education
  - a. SAT-10 score of 38 (45<sup>th</sup> percentile or higher)
4. A student who demonstrates through a student portfolio that he or she is performing at least at level 2 level on the FSA in reading.
  - a. State approved passages and questions, following SJCS D protocol
5. Students with disabilities who participate in the FSA in reading and who have an IEP or 504 Plan that reflects the student has received intensive remediation in reading for more than two years but still demonstrates a deficiency in reading and was previously retained in kindergarten, grade 1, grade 2 or grade 3\*
6. Students who have received intensive reading intervention for two or more years but still demonstrate a deficiency in reading and who were previously retained in kindergarten, grade 1, grade 2, or grade 3 for a total of two years. A student may not be retained more than once in grade 3\*\*.



**Other Student Performance Criteria (beyond Good Cause Exemptions)**

Student meets the criteria through one of the following options (must be completed at school)

- i-Ready Diagnostic score of 511 or higher on the winter or spring 2021 assessment
- DRA score of 28 (independent) or higher; administered by trained teacher, ILC or designee
- BAS level M or higher; administered by trained teacher, ILC or designee

**9. Is the third grade Summer Reading Program still required?**

If the student does not meet a Good Cause Exemption or demonstrate level 2 or higher through any means listed above, he/she must attend the Summer Reading Program. The portfolio will be continued during the program, if appropriate. The SAT-10 will be administered at the end of the program. If the student meets the required criteria through either option at the end of the Summer Reading Program, he/she will be eligible for promotion. Additionally, the student may take the DRA/BAS prior to the start of the school year to determine if promotion is appropriate based upon the criteria listed above.

**10. How will retention in other elementary grade levels be determined? Can parents request retention or promotion?**

Retention and promotion decisions must be based solely on academic performance. Parents may provide input regarding retention or promotion, but ultimately the school principal and relevant staff members must decide promotion or retention based on academic performance of the student during the 2020-21 school year.

**Middle and High School**

**11. If my child does not take the FSA, will their course selections in middle and high schools be affected?**

Returning students have already made course selections for the 2021-22 school year based on parent, student, teacher, and school counselor input as well as multiple achievement data points. This will continue to include overall student classroom grades, district assessments and teacher recommendations when making these determinations. No single assessment will determine access to advanced or remedial coursework.

**12. In courses that have an End-of-Course assessment, how will grades be calculated if the EOC is not part of the course grade?**



The results of State End-of-Course (EOCs) assessments for courses with state EOCs (Civics, Algebra, Geometry, Biology and U.S. History) will only count as 30% of the student's final grade if the test grade improves the student's overall course grade.

The results of District End-of-Course (EOCs) assessments for district courses will only count as 10% of the student's final grade if the test grade improves the student's overall course grade.

If the EOC test score would lower the student's final grade, the test score will not be used. In all cases, the results will be used to measure to what extent students learned the course content and what supports are needed to ensure success in the next sequential course.

### **13. Do students still need to take the End-of-Course Assessments?**

Taking End-of-Course (EOCs) assessments ensures students and parents know the progress made by the student in the classes in which they were enrolled during the 2020-21 school year. The Florida Department of Education (FDOE) has offered flexibility with the FSA/EOC requirements for students scheduled to graduate in the spring 2021 only. Assessment requirements have not been waived for future cohorts of students.

The Algebra 1 or Geometry EOC is currently the required math graduation EOC depending on the graduating class. Currently, all students except the class of 2021 need to sit for and pass the Algebra 1 or Geometry EOC assessment for graduation. (Reference 16 below)

### **14. What about other end-of-year assessments including Advanced Placement (AP), Cambridge AICE, and International Baccalaureate (IB) exams?**

The governing bodies of AP, AICE and IB exams set forth the administrative regulations. St. Johns County has determined the test schedules that maximize instructional time. Assessments will be administered in person and on campus. Check with the SJCS D website, the school, or your child's teacher for specific testing times and dates.

### **15. Have the graduation requirements been modified for the class of 2021?**

Students graduating in spring of 2021 must meet credit and GPA requirements. Flexibility has been given towards assessment requirements including a passing score on the Algebra 1 EOC and the 10<sup>th</sup> Grade ELA FSA.

The Algebra 1 EOC requirement will be waived if the student demonstrates one of the following:

- Final grade of C or higher in Algebra 1 (Student earning a D needs supporting evidence of mastery)
- PSAT/NMSQT Math 430
- SAT Math 420
- ACT Math 16
- FSA Geometry EOC 499
- PERT Mathematics 97



The 10<sup>th</sup> Grade ELA FSA requirement will be waived if the student demonstrates one of the following:

- Final grade of C or higher on either 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, or 12<sup>th</sup> grade ELA (Student earning a D needs supporting evidence of mastery)
- SAT Evidence-Based Reading and Writing (EBRW) 430
- ACT English and Reading Subtests 18
- SAT Reading Subtest 24
- ACT Reading 19

Students or parents with questions about these requirements should contact the student's school for assistance.

#### **16. How will diploma designations be determined for the class of 2021?**

Students who are expected to graduate in the spring of 2021 may still qualify for the Scholar Diploma Designation. The EOC assessment requirement for the Scholar Diploma Designation (passing score on Geometry EOC, Biology EOC and U.S. History EOC) may be waived if the student earns a final grade of A or B in the course.

See the Florida Department of Education diploma designations chart for more information. Students or parents with questions about these requirements should contact the school or SJCSO Curriculum Department for assistance.

#### **17. What changes to the Bright Futures Scholarship apply to the Class of 2021?**

Two changes exist for students who are expected to graduate in the spring of 2021 and who are working to qualify for any of the four Bright Futures Scholarships:

- a. Extension of Testing Deadline: Students working toward the Florida Academic or Medallion Scholars awards will have until December 1, 2021, to earn the minimum required SAT or ACT score specified for each scholarship award.
- b. Volunteer Hours: Students working toward qualifying for any of the four Bright Futures Scholarship awards (Florida Academic Scholars, Florida Medallion Scholars, Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars, or the Florida Gold Seal CAPE Scholars) who have not been able to complete the required number of volunteer service hours due to circumstances listed below, may still be found eligible for these awards through a transcript documentation process submitted by your student's school counselor to the Florida Department of Education.

The circumstances are:

- Student had planned for, and intended to, complete the service hours prior to the student's graduation but was unable to do so because the pandemic created a lack of access to volunteer opportunities will contact their school



counselor and completed the appropriate form to verify the student's hours.

- Student, due to health concerns, fell short of the volunteer service hours.

## Early Childhood Education

### 18. How will St. Johns County School District VPK Summer Program change in response to Executive Order No. 2021-EO-02?

St. Johns County School District VPK Summer Program will provide the following services in response to Executive Order No. 2021-EO-02:

- 260 Hours of Summer VPK Instruction
- Increased cleaning and sanitation of classrooms and equipment
- Adherence to CDC suggestions related to PPE and Social Distancing
- Adult Child Ratios of 1:12 maximum
- Pre and Post VPK Assessments
- Certified Teachers

## References

St. Johns County School District

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

Florida Department of Education

<http://www.fldoe.org/>

Florida Department of Education Executive Order  
[response/index.stml](http://www.fldoe.org/em-response/index.stml)

[http://www.fldoe.org/em-](http://www.fldoe.org/em-response/index.stml)

Florida Know Your Schools

<https://edudata.fldoe.org/>