



THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA

Nova Middle School
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The School Board of
Broward County, Florida

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March 15, 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that your student will take the computer-based Florida Standards Assessments (FSA) Spring 2021 Writing assessment on the following date:

- 7th Grade On Campus Learners: April 12, 2021
- 7th Grade At Home Learners Last Name A-D: April 13, 2021
- 7th Grade At Home Learners Last Name E-L: April 14, 2021
- 7th Grade At Home Learners Last Name M-R: April 15, 2021
- 7th Grade At Home Learners Last Name S-Z: April 16, 2021
- 8th Grade On Campus Learners: April 19, 2021
- 8th Grade At Home Learners Last Name A-D: April 20, 2021
- 8th Grade At Home Learners Last Name E-K: April 21, 2021
- 8th Grade At Home Learner Last Name L-P: April 22, 2021
- 8th Grade At Home Learners Last Name Q-Z: April 23, 2021

Per the Florida Department of Education (FDOE), no remote administrations are available for any statewide summative assessments. **The Florida Department of Education (DOE) requires all students present during the testing window to participate in the assessment. Therefore, all students present on any testing or make-up testing days will be required to sit for the assessment. Furthermore, unlike some states, Florida has no "opt-out" policy for state assessments used as the required measures of student achievement for the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015.** Students not in attendance on day of their test(s) will be marked absent and standard absence reporting procedures will be in effect. The final determination of whether a student is in attendance on their scheduled testing day remains with the parent/guardian(s).

Testing days are full school days from 9:30 am to 4:20 pm. Students will participate in testing for the first two periods of the day, break for lunch, and then return to their testing location (eLearning from home students) or classroom (on-campus students) and attend the last two periods of the day from campus. The campus opens at 8:50 am and students will be dismissed at 4:20 pm.



The health and safety of all Broward County Public Schools (BCPS) students and staff are among the Nova Middle School highest priorities. BCPS has deployed personal protective equipment, signage and electrostatic sprayers to all schools to assist with ensuring a safe and secure learning environment for students and teachers. **All students, employees and visitors are expected to complete a daily at home health assessment before leaving for school or work each day. In addition, all students, employees, visitors and vendors are required to wear face coverings, unless medically exempt.** Additional information about the District's health and safety protocols can be found online at <https://www.browardschools.com/coronavirus>.

The goal of statewide assessments is to provide academic achievement and learning gains data to students, parents, teachers, school administrators, and district staff to measure progress and achievement for learners. While no single assessment is the sole determiner of promotion, statewide assessment results are considered for a variety of school-based decisions such as promotion, course placement, and acceptance into magnet programs. Students who do not participate in mandatory statewide assessments risk the possibility of being placed in remediation the following school year, and other consequences (such as retention) based on the district's Student Progression Plan. For further information on promotion criteria, please see School Board Policy 6000.1 Student Progression Plan (<https://www.browardschools.com/progressionplan>). Final recommendations for promotion or retention will be made on a wholistic review of the student's academic performance during this school year and their readiness for the following grade level.

For information regarding test session lengths and other information about the assessments, see the "About the Assessments" page on the portal: <https://fsassessments.org/florida-statewide-assessment-program.shtml>.

Your student will have an opportunity to participate in a practice test to become familiar with the computer-based testing platform, item types, and response formats he or she will see on the assessment(s). If you or your student would like to review the computer-based practice test at home, the practice tests and answer keys are available at <https://FSAssessments.org/students-and-families/practice-tests/computer-based-materials/index.shtml>.

Please review the following policies with your student before testing:

- **Electronic Devices**—Students are not permitted to have any electronic devices, including, but not limited to, cell phones, smartphones, and smartwatches, at any time during testing **or** during breaks (e.g., restroom), **even if the devices are turned off or students do not use them.** If your student is found with an electronic device, his or her test will be invalidated. Students must place their cell phones in their backpacks for the duration of the test.



- **Calculator Policy**— For Grades 7 and 8 Mathematics, **approved calculators may be used during Sessions 2 and 3 only**. For Algebra 1 and Geometry EOC assessments, **approved calculators may be used during Session 2 only**. If students have handheld calculators during Session 1, their tests will be invalidated. For Biology 1 EOC, a handheld four-function calculator may be used only if the school provides all students with a handheld four-function calculator.
- **Testing Rules Acknowledgment**—All tests include a Testing Rules Acknowledgment that reads: “I understand the testing rules that were just read to me. If I do not follow these rules, my test score may be invalidated.” Prior to testing, test administrators read the rules to students, and students acknowledge that they understand the testing rules by clicking a checkbox beside the statement in the secure browser.
- **Discussing Test Content after Testing**—The last portion of the testing rules read to students before they affirm the Testing Rules Acknowledgment states that because the content of all statewide assessments is secure, students may not discuss or reveal details about the test content (including test items, passages, and prompts) after the test. This includes any type of electronic communication, such as texting, emailing, or posting to social media sites. Please make sure your student understands this policy prior to testing and remind them that “discussing” test content includes any kind of electronic communication, such as texting, emailing, posting to social media, or sharing online. **While students may not share information about secure test content after testing, this policy is not intended to prevent students from discussing their testing experiences with their parents/families.**
- **Working Independently**—Students are responsible for doing their own work during the test and for protecting their answers from being seen by others. If students are caught cheating during testing, their tests will be invalidated. In addition, FDOE employs Caveon Test Security to analyze student test results to detect unusually similar answer patterns. Students’ tests within a school that are found to have extremely similar answer patterns will be invalidated.
- **Leaving Campus**—If your student leaves campus before completing a test session (e.g., for lunch, an appointment, illness), he or she **will not** be allowed to return to that test session. If your student does not feel well on the day of testing, it may be best for him or her to wait and be tested on a make-up day. Please remember not to schedule appointments on testing days.
- **Testing Accommodations**—If your student has an Individual Education Plan (IEP), a Section 504 Plan, or is an English Language Learner (ELL) or a recently exited ELL, please contact the school to discuss the testing accommodations that will be provided for your student.



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If you have any questions related to this test administration, please contact Andrea Coy at andrea.coy@browardschools.com. For more information about the Florida Statewide Assessments program, please visit the portal at www.FSAssessments.org.

Thank you for supporting your student and encouraging him or her to do his or her best during Spring 2021 assessments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'RG' with a flourish underneath.

Rayner Garranchan