Concordant and Comparative Scores for ELA and Mathematics Graduation Requirements (Revised May 2018)

Although passing scores on alternative assessments are valid even if the student has not yet taken the respective statewide assessment, all students who are enrolled in Grade 10 and/or Algebra 1 or an equivalent course are still required, per s. 1008.22, Florida Statutes (F.S.), to participate in the respective statewide assessments.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. When will this Rule be presented for adoption by the State Board of Education?

The proposed Rule amendment is anticipated to be presented at the May 2018 State Board of Education meeting.

2. When will the Rule take effect?

If the Rule is adopted by the State Board in May, it will take effect in mid-June 2018, according to the implementation schedule outlined in the Rule.

3. Who will be required to use the new concordant or comparative scores? Who can continue to use the current concordant or comparative scores?

The proposed concordant and comparative scores will be required for students entering grade 9 in the 2018-19 school year (i.e., those scheduled to graduate from high school in spring 2022) and beyond.

For students who are currently in high school (i.e., those scheduled to graduate in the spring of 2018, 2019, 2020, or 2021), the current concordant and comparative scores remain in effect. In addition, these students will also be permitted to use the newly-established concordant and comparative scores, if those new scores satisfy their graduation requirement(s). Therefore, under the proposed rule language, the scores available for students to use if they cannot pass the statewide assessments are not changed for students currently enrolled in high school, and these students may also use the new scores if it is to their benefit.

The table below shows the proposed implementation schedule by student cohort graduation date, and the proposed concordant/comparative scores for the alternative assessments for each cohort.

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<tr>
<th>Cohort</th>
<th>Scheduled Graduation Date</th>
<th>Concordant Scores</th>
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| Those who entered 9th grade in 2018-2019 and beyond | Spring 2022 and beyond | Students can only use newly adopted scores  
For Grade 10 FSA ELA:  
• 480 on SAT EBRW or  
• An average of 18 on ACT English and Reading  
For Algebra 1 EOC:  
• 420 on SAT Math or  
• 16 on ACT Math |
| Those who entered 9th grade between 2010-2011 and 2017-2018 | Spring 2021  
Spring 2020  
Spring 2019  
Spring 2018  
Spring 2017  
Spring 2016  
Spring 2015  
Spring 2014 | Students can use last-adopted scores  
For Grade 10 FSA ELA:  
• 430 on SAT EBRW or  
• 24 on SAT Reading subtest or  
• 19 on ACT Reading  
For Algebra 1 EOC:  
• 97 on PERT Mathematics  
Students can also use the newly adopted scores |
4. **How were the concordant and comparative scores determined?**

Samples of students were identified who had taken FSA Algebra 1 and/or Grade 10 ELA tests as well as the respective SAT and/or ACT tests within 120 days of each other. The Department then used a process called equipercentile linking to rank order students’ scale scores using percentiles. This rank ordering was used to link the scores from one assessment to another to determine concordant/comparative scores. This is a widely used and accepted methodology, and it was the methodology used to set all prior concordant scores for statewide assessments.

As required by law, this process fully aligns the concordant and comparative scores with FSA achievement level performance standards, which were recommended by Florida educators and stakeholders and adopted by the State Board of Education in 2016. Florida’s assessment and accountability efforts, including the setting of the same high expectations for all students, have had a significant positive impact on student achievement over time.

5. **Can students still use a PERT comparative score to meet the Algebra 1 assessment graduation requirement?**

Under the changes proposed for Rule 6A-1.09422, F.A.C., students who enrolled in grade 9 prior to the 2018-19 school year will continue to be eligible to earn a passing comparative score of 97 on the PERT assessment to meet the graduation requirement for the Algebra 1 EOC assessment. Students enrolled in grade 9 in the 2018-19 school year and beyond will not be eligible to use PERT to satisfy the Algebra 1 assessment graduation requirement.

6. **Can a student who will enter grade 9 in 2018-19 and beyond use a concordant or comparative score earned prior to the adoption of this rule if the score or assessment is not one listed in the proposed rule (e.g., a current 8th grader earned a 97 on PERT in the 2017-18 school year)?**

No. If the State Board of Education adopts the rule amendment as-is in May, students who will enter grade 9 in 2018-19 and beyond are not eligible to use the current concordant or comparative scores, even if those scores were earned prior to the implementation of the revised rule.

7. **Will PERT still be used for dual enrollment or other placement decisions?**

Other uses of PERT, as stated in other State Board Rules, will not be affected by the proposed change to Rule 6A-1.09422, F.A.C.

8. **Can students still use an SAT Reading subscore to satisfy the requirement?**

Students who entered grade 9 prior to the 2018-19 school year will continue to be eligible to use the SAT Reading test subscore of 24.

Students who enter grade 9 in 2018-19 and beyond will not be eligible to use SAT Reading subscore.

9. **Why can’t students use lower SAT college-ready benchmark scores that are used for other purposes?**

The Florida Division of Colleges uses an SAT score of 440 for some placement decisions. However, this score relates to the SAT Critical Reading assessment, which was given prior to March 1, 2016, as indicated at the following website: https://app2.fldoe.org/publicapps/articulation/perfCPT/default.asp.

The College Board lists a score of 430 on the SAT EBRW as its 10th grade benchmark. However, for the purposes of determining concordance with the FSA Grade 10 ELA Assessment, the Department used the equipercentile linking method (described in #4 above) to determine that a score of 480 on the SAT EBRW is concordant with a passing score on the FSA Grade 10 ELA Assessment.
10. Are there ways to help students pay for SAT or ACT tests?

Both the College Board and ACT offer fee waivers for eligible students participating in the SAT and ACT, respectively. For more information on SAT eligibility, please visit https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/register/fees/fee-waivers. For more information on ACT eligibility, please visit https://www.act.org/content/dam/act/unsecured/documents/FeeWaiver.pdf.

11. Can students use the average of ACT English and ACT Reading scores from different test administrations?

For any student who has taken ACT more than once, the student’s highest ACT English score from any administration may be combined with the student’s highest ACT Reading score from any administration to determine an average of the two scores.

12. Can students use SAT or ACT concordant or comparative scores that are deemed “non-college-reportable” by College Board or ACT?

Statute and Rule do not offer any distinction between “college-reportable” or “non-college-reportable” scores for either the SAT or ACT. Any valid passing score reported by ACT or College Board may be used for the purpose of satisfying Florida’s assessment graduation requirements.

13. What if I have additional questions or wish to provide input on the Rule before it is adopted?

Questions and input regarding Rule 6A-1.09422, F.A.C., may be sent to Assessments@fldoe.org. Another option for submitting input on the Rule prior to its adoption is via https://web02.fldoe.org/rules/. In the table on that webpage is a link titled ‘Submit Comment’ in the row for Rule 6A-1.09422. After clicking the link, you will be directed to a form that is used to record your input.