



FSA Solution

July 28, 2015

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Seminole Schools Best in Math, Science Rankings

Orlando Sentinel: July 26, 2015



Problems: Computer Based Testing

- System-wide failure of platform caused rescheduling of assessments
- System auto-save function not working properly caused loss of student work
- Maintaining connectivity to testing platform and system timing out inappropriately
- Students working offline without proper notification causing loss of work
- Multiple interruptions to student testing
- Students inadvertently accessing incorrect portion of test
- Excessive time needed to restart students who were disconnected or entered into wrong portion of test
- Reports of test items with answer choices missing or response areas not working properly
- Sound within Listening portions of test working sporadically
- Online reporting system not updating timely, therefore difficult to track student progress
- No even application of resolution measures/no unified approach to answering problems (solutions presented by AIR or DOE)



Problems: Impact on Instruction and Technology Resources

- The district technology resources must accommodate 30,539 computer testing sessions
- At each high school, students lose access to approximately 395 computers for each of the 31 days impacted by testing
- Teachers and students are displaced from classrooms, media centers are closed, and instructional coaches and facilitators are not available due to proctoring
- 14-15, new computer-based testing requirements resulted in an additional 20,721 SCPS students participating in computer-based testing



Problems: Impact on ESE Students Utilizing Paper Accommodations

- Per the DOE 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 testing schedules, there is a 10-day difference between the testing windows for paper-based tests and computer-based tests.
- The result is decreased instructional time prior to testing for these ESE students versus that of their non-disabled peers.

Test	Paper Based Testing	Computer Based Testing	Instr. Days Difference
FSA ELA and Math	4/13 – 4/24	4/13 – 5/8	10



Problems: Upcoming Shift from Paper Based Testing to Computer Based Testing

- 15-16, grade 4 ELA – additional 4600 computer based test takers
- 16-17, grade 4 math and grade 3 ELA - additional 9600 computer based test takers
- 17-18, grade 3 math – additional 5000 computer based test takers;
- The transition to computer based writing assessment remains undefined by DOE



Timeline

- 2012-2014: Numerous discussions with DOE regarding FSA implementation
- September 23, 2014: SCSB Resolution Concerning the FSA Program
- January 11, 2015: Central Florida School Board Coalition/Senator Simmons
- February 5, 2015: Letter to the Commissioner regarding Computer Ready Certification process.
- February 10, 2015: FADSS Letter to the Commissioner on behalf of Superintendents
- February 18, 2015: Dr. Griffin invited to Tallahassee to discuss the Seminole solution.
- February 24, 2015: Governor's Executive Order to Eliminate the Grade 11 ELA
- February 25, 2015: SCPS posts FSA Q&A
- *Numerous conversations with parents, students, administrators, community members, legislators*
- April 21, 2015: SCSB directs Dr. Griffin to write a letter to the Commissioner detailing the request from Legislators to propose a solution to reduce the number of hours students are engaged in mandated testing and to find a valid and reliable way to nationally assess Florida's students
- May-June, 2015: Dr. Griffin talks with the Commissioner
- July 13, 2015: Letter sent to the Commissioner detailing the proposed solution
- July 17, 2015: Response from the Commissioner
- July 19, 2015: Orlando Sentinel Editorial supporting the Superintendent's solution
- July 21, 2015: Scott Maxwell column supporting the Superintendent's solution



- Florida State Board of Education adopted the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) on July 27, 2010, with K-12 implementation required for the 2013-14 school year.

February 18, 2014

CCSS  Florida Standards (FS)

Language Arts Florida Standards (LAFS)

Mathematics Florida Standards (MAFS)

Next Generation Sunshine State Standards

- Science
- Social Studies
- Physical Education
- World Languages
- Fine Arts
- Health Education



Similarities CCSS and Florida Standards

ELA standards are the same, except for the following:

- Most common adjustments are in verbiage and/or semantics
- There are 13 clarifications (12 elementary and 1 high)
- Addition of cursive writing sub-standards in grades K-5



Similarities CCSS and Florida Standards

Math standards are the same, except for the following:

- Most common adjustments are in verbiage, qualifying statements, and prerequisite content
- There are 24 clarifications (15 elementary, 1 middle, 8 high) and two deleted standards (one each in grades K and 1)
- A total of 60 new math standards were added (52 are current calculus – the calculus standards and course descriptions will not change)
- There are also two new standards in K, two new standards in grade 1 (including one that covers some of the content taken out in K), one in grade 2, and two in grade 4



	Norm-Referenced Tests	Criterion-Referenced Tests
Purpose	Designed to measure and compare individual students' performances or test results to those of an appropriate peer group at the classroom, district, state, or national level.	Designed to measure student achievement against objective standards that are independent of the group of students being assessed.
Content	Broad assessment of skills	More specific assessment of skills
Item Characteristics	Usually between 1-3 items tested per skill	Usually 4 or more items tested per skill
Score Interpretation	Each student is compared with a peer group and assigned a score –usually a percentile and/or grade equivalent score	Each student is compared with a fixed standard for acceptable achievement. The scores assigned are usually a percentage correct or a scale score/ level of performance.
Uses for data	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inform instruction and adjustments to curriculum• Help inform program placement decisions• May be able to assess student growth• May assess mastery of standards• Measure instructional effectiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assess mastery of standards• May be able to assess student growth• Measure instructional effectiveness



Comparative Sample Test Timing

FSA ELA/Math & FCAT Science			
Grade	# of Days in Testing Window	# of Days Impacted by Test	Total Testing Minutes By Grade Level ELA&Math
3	15	12	320
4			440
4-5 Writing	10	4	
5	20	20	600
6	20	14	470
7			470
8			630
6-8 Writing	10	4	
High school information reflects ELA and Writing only			
9	20	20	300
10			300
9-10 Writing	10	6	
Totals	105		3530

Test time for FSA Writing Assessment is included in grade level total

Iowa/PSAT			
Grade	# of Days in Testing Window	# of Days Impacted by Test	Total Testing Minutes By Grade Level ELA&Math Only/ Complete Battery w/Science and Social Studies
3	5	5	270/340
4			225/295
5			225/295
6	4	4	225/295
7			225/295
8			225/295
9	0.5	0.5	85/145
10			95/165
Totals	5.5		1575/2125



Seminole Solution

Letter to the Florida Commissioner of Education – July 13, 2015

“The simple solution we are proposing is to work with the Governor, Legislature and you to support the use of nationally norm-referenced tests statewide beginning in 2015-16 in place of using the Florida Standards Assessment (FSA).”

Superintendent Walt Griffin



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Next Steps



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