

# Standardized Testing: Helpful or Harmful?

Over the last two decades, the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) and Florida Standard Assessment (FSA) have been used to assess student aptitude. Florida's Department of Education (DOE) has instituted many reforms to the standardized testing system that assesses students' aptitude for the subjects reading and math. However, the structure of these tests have the unintended effect of prompting teachers to employ static teaching methods, only teaching students according to what will be on the test.



Average passing test scores have decreased over the last four years.



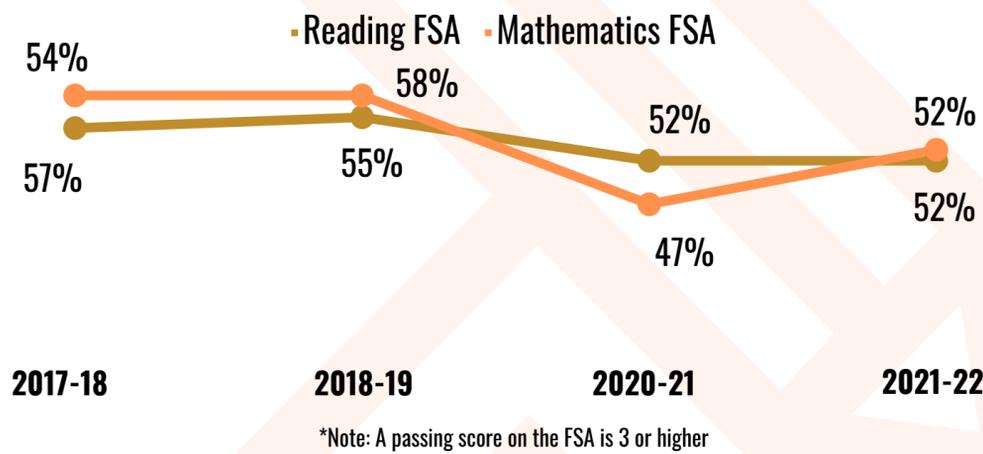
A little over half of students that take standardized tests pass them.



Standardized tests are being replaced with progress based assessments.

## Florida Passing\* Scores for Math and Reading, 2017-2021

Passing FSA scores have declined 14% across both assessments since 2018.



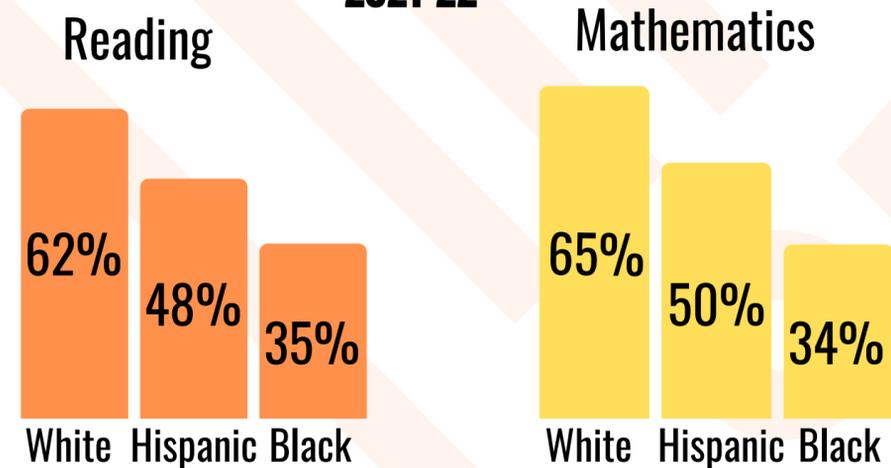
\*Note: A passing score on the FSA is 3 or higher

## Percentage of passing and failing students, 2021-2022

	Reading FSA		Mathematics FSA	
	Passing	Failing	Passing	Failing
Florida	52%	48%	52%	48%
Broward	53%	46%	51%	49%
Miami-Dade	55%	45%	54%	46%
Palm Beach	54%	46%	52%	48%

Note: Some of the totals for the percentages of passing and failing students do not total 100%. According to the Florida DOE school grades calculation guide for 2021-22, only 95% of a public school's students need to be tested to represent the progress of the school. Students of Asian or one or more races, have been excluded from all calculations due to them making up less than six percent of the population.

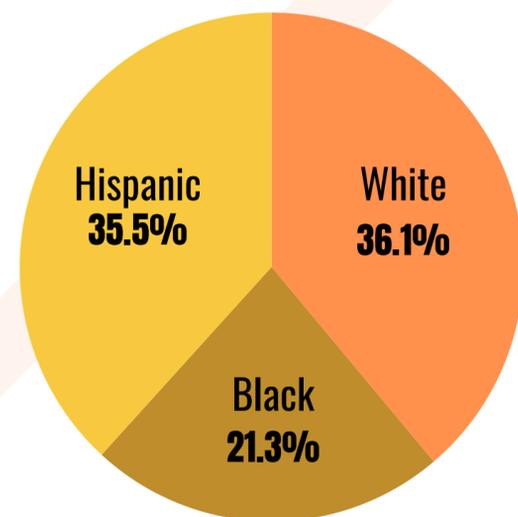
## Percentage of Students With Passing FSA Scores, 2021-22



A higher percentage of White students pass both the reading and mathematics FSA' at a higher rate than their Black and Hispanic counterparts

## Florida Public School Population Composition by Race and Ethnicity, 2021-2022

There were 4,202 public schools in Florida with 2,833,179 students enrolled in 2022.



## What's Being Done: Progress Based Assessments



Governor Ron DeSantis signed SB 1048, Student Assessments into law on March 16, 2022.

SB 1048 abolishes the FSA and institutes the Florida Assessment for Student Thinking (FAST). FAST is a progress monitoring assessment that is designed to regularly identify the educational strengths and needs of students.