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**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** School District Superintendents  
**FROM:** Paul O. Burns, Ed.D.  
**DATE:** October 20, 2023

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**DPS: 2023-184**

**SUBJECT: State Board of Education Approves Cut Scores for B.E.S.T.-aligned Assessments**

On October 18, 2023, the State Board of Education voted in favor of Education Commissioner Manny Diaz, Jr.’s recommended cut scores for the statewide, standardized assessments aligned to the Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking (B.E.S.T.) Standards, which include the Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST) in English Language Arts (ELA) Reading and Mathematics, as well as the B.E.S.T. Writing and Algebra 1 and Geometry end-of-course (EOC) assessments. The cut scores were part of the proposed amendment to Rule 6A-1.09422, Florida Administrative Code, which takes into account the invaluable work and input of parents, hundreds of educators from across the state and other education stakeholders.

On July 24–28, 2023, the Department convened a statewide committee of educators to recommend achievement level standards for the kindergarten through grade 10 ELA Reading, kindergarten through grade 8 Mathematics, and grades 4 through 10 Writing assessments, as well as the EOC assessments in Algebra 1 and Geometry. This was followed on August 3–4, 2023, by a reactor panel composed of superintendents, school board members, early learning representatives, business leaders, college presidents and other stakeholders who reviewed the educators’ recommendations and provided recommended achievement level standards. The Department also conducted a rulemaking workshop on August 11, 2023, to solicit public input on these proposed standards. Based on the input and recommendations received, Commissioner Diaz recommended, and the State Board of Education ultimately adopted, the standards shown below, which are based on the new scale score ranges established for the FAST assessments and the B.E.S.T. Writing and EOC assessments.

Assessment	Level 2 Cut	Level 3 Cut	Level 4 Cut	Level 5 Cut
Kindergarten ELA Reading	114	134	147	162
Grade 1 ELA Reading	135	153	170	188
Grade 2 ELA Reading	166	183	196	211
Grade 3 ELA Reading	186	201	213	225
Grade 4 ELA Reading	199	213	224	237
Grade 5 ELA Reading	206	222	232	246
Grade 6 ELA Reading	209	225	237	250
Grade 7 ELA Reading	215	232	242	257
Grade 8 ELA Reading	220	238	251	262
Grade 9 ELA Reading	224	242	254	267

**DR. PAUL O. BURNS**  
CHANCELLOR OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Assessment	Level 2 Cut	Level 3 Cut	Level 4 Cut	Level 5 Cut
Grade 10 ELA Reading	230	247	258	271
Kindergarten Mathematics	101	119	133	147
Grade 1 Mathematics	130	147	160	172
Grade 2 Mathematics	158	171	185	201
Grade 3 Mathematics	183	198	209	225
Grade 4 Mathematics	200	211	221	238
Grade 5 Mathematics	207	222	234	246
Grade 6 Mathematics	213	229	239	254
Grade 7 Mathematics	223	235	247	258
Grade 8 Mathematics	227	244	254	263
Algebra 1 EOC	379	400	418	435
Geometry EOC	385	404	423	432

ELA Writing will be reported using a single cut score, which is considered On Grade Level performance.

Assessment	On Grade Level Cut
Grade 4 ELA Writing	220
Grade 5 ELA Writing	218
Grade 6 ELA Writing	220
Grade 7 ELA Writing	232
Grade 8 ELA Writing	234
Grade 9 ELA Writing	231
Grade 10 ELA Writing	238

In making the recommendations, the Commissioner considered the impact of the recommended cut scores applied to student performance for the spring 2023 administration of these assessments. The table below shows the percentage of students who would have scored On Grade Level and above for each grade-level and subject assessment if these recommended cut scores had been in place in spring 2023.

Assessment	% On Grade Level and Above
Kindergarten ELA Reading	51%
Grade 1 ELA Reading	52%
Grade 2 ELA Reading	51%
Grade 3 ELA Reading	51%
Grade 4 ELA Reading	52%
Grade 5 ELA Reading	50%
Grade 6 ELA Reading	50%
Grade 7 ELA Reading	47%
Grade 8 ELA Reading	48%
Grade 9 ELA Reading	48%
Grade 10 ELA Reading	47%
Kindergarten Mathematics	49%
Grade 1 Mathematics	55%
Grade 2 Mathematics	57%
Grade 3 Mathematics	57%

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<b>Assessment</b>	<b>% On Grade Level and Above</b>
Grade 4 Mathematics	58%
Grade 5 Mathematics	51%
Grade 6 Mathematics	48%
Grade 7 Mathematics	44%
Grade 8 Mathematics	41%
Algebra 1 EOC	51%
Geometry EOC	46%
Grade 4 ELA Writing	42%
Grade 5 ELA Writing	62%
Grade 6 ELA Writing	50%
Grade 7 ELA Writing	55%
Grade 8 ELA Writing	39%
Grade 9 ELA Writing	63%
Grade 10 ELA Writing	54%

The approved cut scores will be used to report assessment results beginning with the second 2023–24 administration of FAST progress monitoring assessments (PM2) in December and January, and beginning with the winter administration of B.E.S.T. EOC assessments. Additionally, the new cut scores will be provided for the first 2023–24 administration of FAST progress monitoring (PM1) from the current 2023–24 school year so students, parents and educators know what students would have earned if the new achievement level standards had been adopted at that time, which provides an “apples to apples” comparison going forward to drive improvement.

It is also important to note that scores earned by students prior to the adoption of the new cut scores (including 2023–24 administrations of Fall FAST, Grade 10 ELA Reading Retake, and Fall B.E.S.T. EOCs) will still remain in effect for students. For example, a passing score earned by a student during the spring 2023 administration under the provisional scale and cut points will remain a passing score for the student. Only students who take FAST or B.E.S.T. assessments for the first time following the State Board of Education’s adoption will be subject to the new cut scores.

For more information related to the standard setting process and the adoption of the new cut scores, please visit the [K-12 Student Assessment Standard Setting](#) page. If you have any questions, please contact the Office of Assessment at [Assessment@fldoe.org](mailto:Assessment@fldoe.org).

PB/jc