Florida Standards Assessment (FSA)
Grade 3

Sunset Elementary School
February 11, 2016
What are the Florida Standards and Florida Standards Assessments?

• The Florida Standards in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics were approved by the Florida State Board of Education (SBOE) in February 2014 and were fully implemented in grades K–12 in the 2014–2015 school year.

• All Florida schools teach the Florida Standards. The Florida Standards Assessments (FSA) provide parents and families, teachers, policy makers, and the general public with information regarding how well students are learning the Florida Standards.
FSA Testing Dates

• Tuesday, March 29th - Reading  (Session 1: 80 minutes)
• Wednesday, March 30th - Reading  (Session 2: 80 minutes)
• Thursday, March 31st - Mathematics (Session 1: 80 minutes)
• Friday, April 1st - Mathematics (Session 2: 80 minutes)
Florida Standards Assessment: Reading

• Building knowledge through content-rich non-fiction text

• Use of literary and informational text as a basis for reading, writing, and speaking

• Reading and practicing with complex text and academic language
Florida Standards Assessment: Mathematics

- Deep and narrow focus on concepts that are prioritized in the standards to build strong foundational knowledge

- Students’ conceptual understanding builds over time

- Rigor is defined through four components to guide instruction to include:
  - 1. Mathematical fluency
  - 2. Deep understanding
  - 3. Application
  - 4. Dual intensity or a balance between “drills” and application of concepts
How Can I Support My Student?

• Parents and families can promote student success by staying involved in their child’s education, offering positive support and feedback, and encouraging their child to relax and do his or her very best. By staying connected with their child’s school and teachers and taking advantage of online resources, such as school websites and portals, parents and families can stay informed and be equipped to meet the needs of their child at home.
Finding More Information About FSA

- Florida Standards Assessment:  
  http://www.fsassessments.org/students-and-families/

- **CPALMS** is a one-stop online educational portal with nearly 9,000 reviewed and approved resources and interactive tools that help Florida’s educators effectively implement the Florida Standards. It is Florida’s official source for information about the Florida Standards and course descriptions. 
  http://www.cpalms.org/Public/
Third Grade Promotion

• As required by the statewide public school student progression law eliminating social promotion, Section 1008.25, Florida Statutes, a student may be promoted to grade 4 if the student demonstrates reading mastery through one of the following:

1. **Florida Standards Assessment (FSA)** – English Language Arts score of Level 2 or higher

2. **Grade 3 Reading Student Portfolio** - performance on each grade 3 Language Arts Florida Standards rated as acceptable (“good cause” criteria)

3. **Alternative Standardized Reading Assessment** administered prior to the end of the school year – reading percentile rank score of 50 or higher on the Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS) Level 9

4. **Alternative Assessment for Grade 3 Promotion** (administered at the end of summer reading camps) - reading percentile rank score of 45 or higher on the Stanford Achievement Test, 10th Edition (SAT-10)
What is Portfolio?

The Grade 3 Reading Student Portfolio represents a student’s second opportunity to be promoted to grade 4 for the subsequent school year. It was developed as part of an ongoing effort to document student mastery of the Language Arts Florida Standards (LAFS) that are assessed on the FSA. The district established the portfolio committee which recommended that evidence be collected for all third grade students and that the evidence be uniform throughout the district in order to ensure equity across schools.
“Good Cause”

School districts **may** exempt grade 3 students who demonstrate continued deficiency in reading from mandatory retention for good cause. The good cause exemptions are specified in law and limited to the following:

- ELL who have had less than two years of instruction in an English for Speakers of Other Languages program.

- Students with disabilities whose IEPs indicate that participation in statewide assessment programs is not appropriate.

- Students with disabilities who participated in the FSA and who have IEPs or Section 504 plans that reflect that they have received intensive remediation in reading for more than two years but still demonstrate a deficiency in reading and were previously retained in kindergarten or grades 1, 2, or 3.

- Grade 3 students who have received intensive remediation in reading for two or more years but still have a deficiency in reading and were previously retained in kindergarten, grade 1, 2, or 3 for a total of two years.

- Students who demonstrate, through a student portfolio, that they are reading on grade level as evidenced by demonstration of mastery of the NGSSS in reading equal to at least a Level 2 performance on the FCAT.
Third Grade Assessment Dates

- Grade 3 Portfolio: January- May 2016
- Alternative Standardized Reading Assessment*- May 31-June 7, 2016
- Alternative Assessment for Grade 3 Promotion*- Last week of 2016 summer reading camp

*Administered only to grade 3 students who score a level 1 on the FSA ELA.
Tips to Reduce Testing Anxiety for Parents

• Make sure children attend school regularly.
• Create and maintain a home environment that will help children be well rested during regular school days and during the week of testing.
• Evaluate children's academic progress over a period of time rather than on one single test score.
• Talk with your children and encourage them to do their best.
• Encourage children to maintain a healthy diet and exercise on a regular basis.
• Be proactive, contact school officials if you have questions concerning test results.
Tips to Reduce Anxiety for Students

• Consistently develop good sleeping habits, especially during the week of the test, and maintain a healthy diet and exercise regularly.
• Avoid cramming, develop good study habits, and good test taking skills.
• Wear comfortable clothes during the exam and maintain a comfortable and relaxed body posture during the test.
• Be aware of time allotted for the test and read directions carefully.
• Do not compare themselves to other students while taking their test.
• Take deep breaths and attempt to regain composure when anxiety levels are high or when negative thoughts are present.
Questions and Answers