



**START HERE. GO EVERYWHERE.**

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST) is a progress monitoring system that is administered three times per year to track your student's progress in learning the Benchmarks of Excellent Student Thinking (B.E.S.T.) Standards throughout this school year. The purpose of this letter is to inform you that **Grade 1 students will take the Renaissance STAR Early Literacy and STAR Math assessments and Grade 2 students will take the STAR Reading and STAR Math assessments within our testing window, August 21 – September 1, 2023.** The reading and math assessments will be administered on separate days within our testing window; please reach out to your child's teacher if you would like to know the actual dates of testing within that school window. Your student's results from Progress Monitoring 1 (PM1) are to assist in informing instruction, and you will be provided with information about the results after testing is completed.

FAST assessments are computer-adaptive tests taken on a computer or tablet. The questions get easier or more difficult depending on how the student responds, and each student will see different questions. If you or your student would like to review STAR Early Literacy, STAR Reading, and/or STAR Math sample items at home, sample test items are available at <https://flfast.org/resources/renaissance-star/renaissance-star>.

The Star Early Literacy assessment typically takes less than 15 minutes to complete. The Star Reading assessment is usually completed in less than 20 minutes, and the Star Math assessment typically takes less than 30 minutes to complete.

Please review the following policies with your student before testing:

- **Electronic Devices**—Students are not permitted to have any electronic devices, including, but not limited to, cell phones, smartphones, and smartwatches, at any time during testing or during breaks (e.g., restroom), **even if the devices are turned off or students do not use them.** If your student is found with an electronic device or is found using Bluetooth/wireless headphones/earbuds during testing, his or her test will be invalidated.
- **Calculator Policy**—calculators are not permitted on STAR Math.
- **Discussing Test Content after Testing**—Because the content of all statewide assessments is secure, students may not discuss or reveal details about the test content (including test items and passages) after the test. This includes any type of electronic communication, such as texting, emailing, or posting to social media sites. Please make sure your student understands this policy prior to testing and remind them that “discussing” test content includes any kind of electronic communication, such as texting, emailing, posting to social media, or sharing online. **While students may not share information about secure test content after testing, this policy is not intended to prevent students from discussing their testing experiences with their parents/families.**
- **Working Independently**—Students are responsible for doing their own work during the test and for protecting their answers from being seen by others. If students are caught cheating during testing, their tests will be invalidated.

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- **Leaving Campus**—If your student leaves campus before completing a test (e.g., for lunch, an appointment), he or she **will not** be allowed to return to that test. If your student does not feel well on the day of testing, it may be best for him or her to wait and be tested on a make-up day. Please remember not to schedule appointments on testing days.
- **Arriving Late** - If your student arrives late to school and testing for the day has already begun, school administration will determine a safe location for your student to wait until they can rejoin their class and testing concludes if needed. Your student will then have the opportunity to test on a subsequent day within the state testing window.
- **Testing Accommodations**—If your student has an Individual Education Plan (IEP), a Section 504 Plan, or is an English Language Learner (ELL) or a recently exited ELL, please contact the school to discuss the testing accommodations that will be provided and are allowable on state testing for your student.

If you have any questions related to this test administration, you may contact Amy Ursitti, School Testing Coordinator, at 239-283-4511. For more information about the Florida Statewide Assessments program, please visit the portal at [FLFAST.org](http://FLFAST.org).

Thank you for supporting your student and encouraging him or her to do his or her best during this test administration.

Sincerely,

*Kevin Brown*

Principal