

## NGSSS SCIENCE STANDARDS

Currently we continue to use the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards (NGSSS) for Science. During teaching and learning, connections to Florida Standards for Mathematics and English Language Arts Literacy for History, Science and Technical Subjects are established, as they are essential for understanding the Nature of Science.

### What are the Florida Standards?

They are the English Language Arts Standards, Mathematics Standards, and English Language Arts Literacy Standards for History, Science and Technical Subjects.

### The Florida Standards:

- align with college and work expectations;
- detail expectations of what every child should be able to do at each grade level;
- underscore the importance of thinking critically and analytically;
- help prepare your child for success no matter which path he/she chooses after graduation;
- prepare all students to succeed in our global economy and society; and
- define the vision of what it means to be a literate person in the twenty-first century.

### How do the Language Arts Florida Standards (LAFS) Support Science?

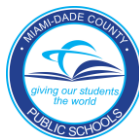
- By building scientific knowledge through content-rich nonfiction and informational texts
- By engaging in scientific research, reading, and writing that is grounded in evidence from text
- Through regular practice with complex text and its academic vocabulary
- With scientific conclusion writing, which requires students to support their own written claims with appropriate justification to include evidence and scientific reasoning

## Miami-Dade County Public Schools

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## Miami-Dade County Public Schools Division of Academics

### DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE



#### Vision

***Our vision is to be at the forefront of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education creating a community of scientifically literate lifelong learners who are globally competitive.***

***We have a commitment to improve science teaching and learning for all.***

For additional information regarding science curriculum and instruction, please contact:

Department of Mathematics and Science

Office: 305-995-1939

<http://science.dadeschools.net>

**The Department of Science sponsors the following  
STEM Expo Competitions and Programs**

Science Fair  
SECME



<http://stem.dadeschools.net>

## TEST ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

### About FCAT 2.0

- Grades 5 and 8 FCAT 2.0 Science will be administered in two 80-minute sessions with a break in the middle of each session. Grade 5 sessions are administered over two days. Grade 8 sessions are administered on the same day.
- Students in grade 8 will receive a hand-held four-function calculator and a Periodic Table of the Elements for use during the FCAT 2.0 Science sessions.

### About Biology 1 End of Course Exam

- The statewide, standardized EOC will be administered in two 80-minute sessions with a break in the middle of each session on the same day.
- Students enrolled in an Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), or Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) Biology course who take the respective AP, IB, or AICE Biology assessment and earn the minimum score necessary to earn college credit do not have to take the statewide, standardized Biology I EOC assessment.

## TIPS FOR TAKING THE FCAT 2.0 AND THE BIOLOGY 1 EOC

Some hints to help you do your best when taking the FCAT 2.0 or the Biology 1 EOC.

- Sleep well the night before and eat a balanced and nutritious breakfast.
- Read each question carefully and think about ways to answer or solve the problem before you try to answer the question.
- Use reading text marking strategies (underline, circle, margin notes, etc.)
- Answer the questions you are sure about first. If a question seems too difficult, skip it and go back to it later.
- Think positively. Some questions may seem hard to you, but you may be able to figure out what to do if you read each question carefully.
- When you have finished each question, re-read it to make sure your answer is reasonable.
- Relax. Some people get nervous about tests. It's natural. **Just do your best!**

## ADDITIONAL SCIENCE FCAT 2.0 AND BIOLOGY 1 EOC INFORMATION

Subject	Item Types	Item Quantity
5th grade	Multiple Choice	60 – 66
8th grade	Multiple Choice	60 – 66
Biology	Multiple Choice	60 – 66

Subject	Duration of Test (minutes)
5th grade	160
8th grade	160
Biology	160

## COGNITIVE COMPLEXITY LEVELS

Percentage of Points by Cognitive Complexity Level for FCAT 2.0 and Biology 1 EOC

Grade	Low	Moderate	High
5th grade	10 - 20	60 - 80	10 - 20
8th grade	10 - 20	60 - 80	10 - 20
Biology	10 - 20	60 - 80	10 - 20

## FCAT 2.0 CONTENT REPORTING CATEGORIES

Grade	Category	%
5th grade	Nature of Science	17
	Earth and Space Science	29
	Physical Science	29
	Life Science	25
8th grade	Nature of Science	19
	Earth and Space Science	27
	Physical Science	27
Biology	Life Science	27
	Molecular and Cellular Biology	35
	Classification, Heredity, and Evolution	25
	Organisms, Populations, and Ecosystems	40

Students tested in the Biology 1 EOC include all students enrolled in the following courses:

- Biology 1 or Biology 1 Honors
- Pre-AICE Biology
- Biology Technology
- Biology 1 Pre-IB
- IB Middle Years Program Biology Honors
- Integrated Science 3
- Integrated Science 3 Honors

## ONLINE SCIENCE RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS THROUGH THE PORTAL

- ExploreLearning Gizmos
- DISCOVERY EDUCATION
- NBC Learn
- FCAT Explorer
- Textbook Online Resources
- PowerMyLearning

### External Online Resources

- Scholastic Study Jams  
<http://studyjams.scholastic.com/studyjams/index.htm>
- PBS Learning Media  
<http://wlrn.pbslearningmedia.org/>
- Interactive Science Sites  
<http://interactivesites.weebly.com/science.html>

## ACHIEVEMENT LEVEL DESCRIPTIONS (ALD)

Indicate what a child should be able to do at each achievement level.

### FCAT 2.0

Grade 5 and 8 FCAT 2.0 Science ALD can be accessed at: <http://fcat.fldoe.org/fcat2/alds.asp>

### Biology 1 End of Course Exam

Biology 1 End of Course ALD can be accessed at: <http://fcat.fldoe.org/eoc/pdf/aldsbioeoca.pdf>

## Test Administration Schedule

(as of August 1, 2014)

### April 13 - May 8, 2015:

Grade 5 Science  
Grade 8 Science

### April 20 - May 22, 2015:

Biology 1 EOC  
Computer Based Testing (CBT)  
Biology EOC CBT practice can be found at  
[www.FLAssessments.com/ePAT](http://www.FLAssessments.com/ePAT)