



General Assessment FAQs Due to Emergency Order EO -2021-02

Are state assessments still occurring for the 2020-21 school year?

Yes, state assessments are still scheduled for students in grades 3-10. While the state has removed certain aspects of accountability, these assessments are used by the School District of Indian River County (SDIRC) in a variety of ways.

- Algebra 1 or Geometry EOC proficient scores and 10th Grade English Language Arts FSA proficient scores are still required for all graduation cohorts after this 2021 school year. Students who are currently enrolled in Algebra 1, Geometry, and 10th Grade ELA who do not test this spring will have to take the test next school year to qualify for graduation.
- Schools will use the results to identify if students are performing according to the grade-level standards, or whether learning loss has occurred.
- Although not the only factor, results from these assessments will be used to determine advanced course placement or to identify additional support needed for the 2021-2022 schoolyear in specific subject areas.
- State assessments are also utilized in universal screening for the gifted program.

These practices will continue as we prepare for next school year.

State Testing Schedule:

April 2021: Grade 3 Reading. Grades 4-10 Writing.

May 2021: Grades 4-10 Reading. Grades 3-8 Mathematics. Grades 5 and 8 Science.

State EOC exams in Civics, U.S. History, Algebra 1, Geometry and Biology 1.

In order to allow for testing of brick and mortar, virtual, and transitional students, each school has a unique, flexible testing schedule. The complete list of SDIRC School Assessment Calendars can be found at:

<https://www.indianriverschools.org/assessments>

How does the Florida Department of Education's (FDOE) Emergency Order (EO-2021-01) in February 2021 affect my student?

An [Emergency Order \(EO -20 21- 01\)](#) was issued by the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) on February 15, 2021, that extends the spring testing window for each subject by two (2) weeks. This allowed for more flexibility in scheduling tests. The emergency order established adjusted assessment data reporting timelines. Results for the grade 3 ELA FSA will be released no later than June 20, 2021. All other assessment data will be released no later than July 31, 2021.

How does the Florida Department of Education's (FDOE) Emergency Order (EO-2021-02) in April 2021 affect my student?

The new Emergency Order updates graduation requirements, effects of End-of-Course exams, promotion/retention for grades 3-12, Bright Futures requirements and Diploma designations. See the entire Order at: <http://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/19861/urlt/2021-EO-02.pdf>

Does my student have to take the state assessment(s) on their school campus?

Per state guidelines all state assessments must be taken in-person. For the School District of Indian River County, all students will test at their home zoned or choice/magnet school.



What steps are being taken to keep students and staff safe during the upcoming spring assessments?

SDIRC is taking the following health/safety steps to provide a safe testing environment:

- Daily deep cleaning of testing locations
- Social distancing between test-takers
- Required face coverings/masks for students and adults
- No sharing of calculators, headsets or other materials

Will students attending school virtually (Virtual, Transitional & Indian River Virtual School) be provided a time and location to complete state assessments in person?

Yes. Schools are currently in contact with remote learners to schedule testing times and locations. Individual school testing plans can be seen at [this link](#). The state has provided flexibility with testing schedules so schools can provide smaller test settings, maintain social distancing, and have adequate time to sanitize testing locations. Please reach out to your home zoned or choice/magnet school with any questions about when and where to report for testing.

Even after talking to the school and considering the enhanced testing protocols in place, what if I still am not comfortable sending my student to school to test?

Students who do not report for testing will be evaluated based on the [School District of Indian River County's Student Progression Plan](#). Each schools' promotion review committee will evaluate individual students who do not test based on a variety of educational performance tasks to determine promotion, retention, and class placement for next year. Parents/Guardians who choose not to have their student assessed will not receive the grade-level performance data for their student relative to the grade-level standards. Schools will not be able to provide personalized learning plans based on this data.

Elementary Grades FAQs

How will the FSA be used for third grade promotion?

Students are still required to demonstrate at least a Level 2 performance on the third grade Florida Standards Assessment, or meet one of the seven criteria for good cause promotion listed in the [School District of Indian River County's Student Progression Plan](#). For instance, if a student does not take the test, they may demonstrate proficiency through a performance portfolio that includes reading comprehension, writing and fluency assessments. The performance portfolio may include grade-level proficiency on other items such as the district unit assessments, iReady and other comprehensive assessments.

How will retention in other grade levels be determined?

Retention and promotion decisions will continue to be based solely on academic performance in accordance with the procedures listed in the [School District of Indian River County's Student Progression Plan](#). In the event a student is not meeting academic standards, the school promotion committee will evaluate the student and make a recommendation of promotion or retention to the school principal. The school principal makes the final decision.



Middle and High School FAQs

If my middle or high school student does not take an EOC or FSA how will they be affected?

While the state has removed certain aspects of accountability this spring, these assessments are used by the School District of Indian River County in a variety of ways. Therefore, not having an EOC or FSA score could affect which courses or course levels your student is placed in for the 2021-2022 school year until they have shown proficiency.

Algebra 1 or Geometry EOC proficient scores and 10th Grade English Language Arts FSA proficient scores are still required for all graduation cohorts after this 2021 school year. Students who are currently enrolled in Algebra 1, Geometry, and 10th Grade ELA who do not test this spring will have to take the test next school year to qualify for graduation.

In courses that have an End-of-Course Assessment, how will grades be calculated?

The results of End-of-Course (EOCs) assessments for courses with state EOCs (Civics, Algebra 1, Geometry, Biology and U.S. History) can only help your student, they cannot harm your student. Your student's EOC class grade will be calculated with and without the EOC grade and the higher of the two scores will become their final grade. The score will not count as 30% of the student final grade *unless the test grade improves the student's overall course grade*. If the EOC test score would lower the student final grade, it will not be used in their grade calculation. In all cases, the results will be used to measure to what extent students learned the course content and what supports are needed to ensure success in the next sequential course.

Will the FSA English Language Arts and Algebra EOC be required for graduation for the class of 2021?

No. *After all testing opportunities have been completed for the 2021 senior cohort (18- or 24-hour credit options) and a concordant score for either Algebra 1 or 10th grade ELA has still not been reached, then students may meet graduation requirements if they received a passing grade in Algebra 1 and/or 10th Grade English Language Arts courses.* Students must meet all other graduation requirements, including all course credits and at least a 2.0 grade point average. Students or parents/guardians with questions about these requirements should contact their home zoned or choice high school for assistance. Parents/Guardians of students who have not yet met the testing requirements for graduation will be required to discuss their student's graduation with the Principal, and, if approved, must complete a form in FOCUS denoting that their student will graduate using this waiver.

What about other end-of-year assessments including International Baccalaureate (IB) and Industry Certification exams?

Exams that award college credit(s), IB and/or workplace credentials will be scheduled for in-person, on-campus administration. The governing body for each of these exams sets forth the administration regulations and they are not being offered virtually.

What about the end-of-year Advanced Placement (AP) exams?

The School District of Indian River County has determined a schedule that provides for paper and pencil AP assessments. While most exams offer a digital option, our intent is to provide students with a supportive and quiet testing environment that is free from distraction where a trained adult can assist each student. Students who do not attend the in-person assessment will be assigned the at-home digital assessment and



their school will provide directions on how to prepare for the exam. If you have specific questions, please reach out to your home zoned or choice high school AP coordinator.

How will diploma designations be determined for the class of 2021?

Students who will graduate in the spring of 2021 may still qualify for the Scholar or Merit diplomas without having met the passing requirements on the state's EOCs if they have met all the specific course and/or certification requirements of the two diploma designations. See the Florida Department of Education [diploma designations chart](#) for more information or contact your student's School Counselor.

What changes to the Bright Futures Scholarship apply to the Class of 2021?

There are two changes for students who are expected to graduate in the spring of 2021 and who are working to qualify for any of the four Bright Futures Scholarships:

- **Extension of Testing Deadline:** Students working toward the Florida Academic or Medallion Scholars awards will have until December 1, 2021, to earn the minimum required SAT or ACT score specified for each scholarship award.
- **Volunteer Hours:** Students working toward qualifying for any of the four Bright Futures Scholarship awards (Florida Academic Scholars, Florida Medallion Scholars, Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars, or the Florida Gold Seal CAPE Scholars) and who have not been able to complete the required number of volunteer service hours due to circumstances listed below, may still be found eligible for these awards through a transcript documentation process submitted by your student's school counselor to the Florida Department of Education. The circumstances are:
 - o Student had planned for, and intended to, complete the service hours prior to the student's graduation but was unable to do so because the pandemic created a lack of access to volunteer opportunities.
 - o Student, due to health concerns, fell short of the volunteer service hours.