



NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND: ACCOUNTABILITY

FCAT and School Report Cards



Frequently Asked Questions

What is No Child Left Behind?

No Child Left Behind (NCLB) is an education law that was passed in 2001. NCLB holds schools accountable for each student's progress. Every state is required to put into action a system of accountability. Progress is measured by how well students perform on state-developed tests. The law requires that parents are informed of their child's achievement on these tests in addition to the overall progress of their child's school, school district, and state.

What test do students take in Florida?

In Florida, students take the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT).

In what grades do students take the FCAT?

Students take the Reading and Math portions of the FCAT every year in grades three through ten. Students in grades four, eight, and ten take the Writing FCAT. Students take the Science FCAT in grades five, eight, and eleven.

How do I know how my child performed on the FCAT?

You are provided with a confidential report on your child's test results. This report helps you and your child's teacher determine how well your child is learning, and whether additional help is needed.

How are FCAT scores used?

In addition to guiding classroom instruction, each school's progress is measured according to FCAT scores. NCLB requires schools to make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) every year. **(see also: *No Child Left Behind: A Parent Guide*)** AYP is the government's measurement of a school's overall success. AYP is determined by the percentage of students that performed on grade level on the FCAT. Every year, states set goals for the percentage of students that must perform on grade level in order for the school to make AYP. Student scores are divided among eight student subgroups including White, Black, Hispanic, Asian, Native American, Economically Disadvantaged, Students with Disabilities, and English Language Learners. A school only makes AYP if **every** subgroup meets the goal.

Is AYP the same as Florida's school grading system?

No, AYP is different from Florida's school grading system. Both systems use FCAT scores, but results are calculated differently.

How can I view the academic performance of my child's school?

School districts are required to publish annual local report cards. These report cards provide valuable information regarding the academic performance of schools. These report cards contain information on how the district performed as a whole and also how individual schools performed. States must also prepare a report card on student achievement for the state.

How can I access these report cards?

School districts are required to provide you with local report cards every year before the beginning of the school year. Also, report cards are often published in local newspapers or on the internet.

How can I view local report cards now?

You can ask your child's school for a copy of its report card, or you can access report cards on the Florida Department of Education's website. Follow these steps:

1. Go to: <http://schoolgrades.fldoe.org>
2. Click on "Search School Accountability Reports."
3. **Type of Report Card:** Choose "School Report Card."
4. **Level of Report:** Choose "school."
5. **Select a District:** Choose your school district.
6. **Select School Years:** Choose the year(s) for which you want a report.
7. **Select School Grade:** Choose "all grades."
8. Click "continue."
9. **Select the Schools:** Choose your child's school.
10. Click "submit."
11. Review the report card to see how your child's school has been performing. This report includes AYP information and school grades.

Follow these steps to view your school district's report card:

1. Go to: <http://schoolgrades.fldoe.org>
2. Click on "Search School Accountability Reports."
3. **Type of Report Card:** Choose "Adequate Yearly Progress."
4. **Level of Report:** Choose "district."
5. **Select a District:** Choose your school district.
6. **Select School Years:** Choose the year(s) for which you want a report.
7. **Select School Grade:** Choose "all grades."
8. Click "continue."
9. Review the school district's report to see how your child's school district has been performing.

Follow these steps to view Florida's report card:

1. Go to: <http://schoolgrades.fldoe.org>
2. Click on "Search School Accountability Reports."
3. **Type of Report Card:** Choose "Adequate Yearly Progress."
4. **Level of Report:** Choose "state."
5. **Select a District:** Leave blank.
6. **Select School Years:** Choose the year(s) for which you want a report.
7. **Select School Grade:** Leave blank.
8. Click "continue."
9. Review the state's report card to see how Florida has been performing.

How can I use this information?

Florida offers many options to you regarding where your child attends school under its school choice plan. Researching the academic performance of different schools can help you make well-informed decisions about where to send your child to school.

Where can I receive assistance in understanding report cards?

You can contact your child's school or district for assistance and more information. You are also encouraged to contact the Florida Parental Information and Resource Center (PIRC) at the University of South Florida: website: www.floridapirc.usf.edu or toll free: (866)775-8661.

Where can I find more information about NCLB accountability?

Contact your child's school, school district, or one of the following organizations:

The Florida Parental Information and Resource Center (PIRC) at USF:

Toll free: (866) 775-8661 or www.floridapirc.usf.edu

Florida Department of Education:

(850) 245-0513 or <http://fcat.fldoe.org>

United States Department of Education:

Toll free: (800) 872-5237 or www.ed.gov/nclb