Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST)

**New acronyms parents need to know**:

* **B.E.S.T. Standards:** Florida’s Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking
* **FAST:** The Florida Assessment for Student Thinking

**Florida’s new B.E.S.T. standards**

* The B.E.S.T. English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics standards will bring education back to the basics by prioritizing reading, writing, math, and civics.
* It provides parents, teachers, and students a clear, concise, and cohesive framework without the worries of conceptual confusion.

**FAST, Florida’s new progress monitoring system, will replace the Florida Standard Assessments (FSA)**

* Beginning in 2022-23, the new FAST progress monitoring system for ELA and Math will replace the FSA.
* Progress monitoring assessments will be administered three times during the school year.
* The first two progress monitoring assessments will be considered diagnostic exams to see how students are progressing. Results must be available to teachers within one week and two weeks for parents.
* The third FAST assessment will be the statewide, standardized assessment for students in grades 3 through 8 for Mathematics and grades 3 through 10 for ELA. Final assessment (end-of-year) results must be available no later than May 31, beginning with the 2023-2024 school year.
* The third progress monitoring assessment will establish baseline performance and be utilized in the revised accountability system in the 2023-2024 school year.
* Progress monitoring assessments will be computer-based.

**FAST: VPK–Grade 2 Administration**

* The FAST VPK and Kindergarten assessments will be aligned to the Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards: 4 years old to kindergarten.
* The grades 1 and 2 assessments will be aligned to the Benchmarks in Excellent Student Thinking (B.E.S.T.) Standards.
* Each test will be administered in one session. It is recommended that each student take only one subject test a day.
* Tests will be computer adaptive. Headphones are required, but only for VPK – grade 2.

**FAST: Grades 3–10 Content**

* Grades 3–10 FAST ELA Reading and Grades 3–8 FAST Mathematics assessments will be aligned to B.E.S.T. Standards.
* Because all FAST assessments are computer-adaptive, items may become progressively harder as students successfully respond to items and easier if students answer more questions incorrectly.
* Many of the same computer-based item types that students are already familiar with will be used on FAST assessments.