



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF
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2021 K-12 Accountability Process Update



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DOE Order No. 2021-EO-02

Clarifications on:

- The process for opting in for a grade or rating
- Possible revisions to designations for schools that opt in
- VAM
- Graduation code reporting

School Accountability

- Per Section IV.C. of DOE Order No. 2021-EO-02, School districts or charter school governing boards may apply to the Department to opt in to have one or more 2020-21 school grades or school improvement ratings officially recorded and reported for all statutory purposes.
- Except as provided in s. 1008.341(2), Fla. Stat., **for any school that tests 90 percent or more of its eligible students, within 30 days after the release of all state testing data, any school district or charter school governing board may apply to the Department to opt in to have one or more 2020-21 school grades or school improvement ratings apply for all statutory purposes that are associated with a school grade or rating.**

Process for Opting In

- As a reminder, DOE Order No. 2021-EO-01, issued on February 15, 2021, extended the testing windows and modified the release dates of the results.
- Per the order:
 - Results for Grade 3 ELA will be made available no later than June 30; and
 - Results for the remaining assessments (FSA/EOCs) will be made available no later than July 31.
- Once all necessary assessment data are available (by the end of July) the Department will provide school districts with an initial calculation, **without the assignment of a grade or rating**, beginning the 30-day opt-in review/application period.

Process for Opting In

- In order to make an informed decision during the 30-day review period on whether to opt-in, districts will be provided the following:
 - School grades, district grades and school improvement rating spreadsheets, **without the assignment of a grade or rating**, which include the percent tested, percent of total points earned, and the value for each component; and
 - Student-level data files (INDV files) used in the calculation.
- In addition, during the 30-day review period, districts will have the opportunity to review their data, and provide any necessary information to ensure the accuracy of the match of student membership records to student assessment records.

Process for Opting In

- As per DOE Order No. 2021-EO-02, for school grades, **only schools that test at least 90% of their students are eligible to request to opt in.**
 - For any school that applies to opt in and tests at least 95% of their students, their applications shall be presumptively approved.
 - For schools that test at least 90%, but less than 95%, analysis will be conducted to determine that the performance of the school as calculated accurately represents the progress of the school.
 - For any alternative school to opt in for a school improvement rating, the minimum threshold is 80% tested, as provided in state law (s. 1008.341(2), F.S.).
- **If no action is taken, no grade or rating will be assigned;** grades or ratings will only be assigned to those who request them and are approved.

Process for Opting In

- The 30-day review/application period to opt in will serve the purpose of the traditional appeals period and spring assessment matching window (the process that ensures the accuracy of the match of student membership records to student assessment records).
- The 30-day window will open with a memorandum to superintendents and access to the data described in this presentation necessary to make informed decisions.
- By late August or early September, final grades and ratings for those who request them and are approved are expected to be published.
- Performance data for all schools will be posted on the ***KnowYourSchoolsFL.org*** portal, but grades or ratings will only be assigned for those who opt-in and are approved.

Adjustments to the 2020-2021 Accountability Calculations

- Per DOE Order No. 2021-EO-02, for the 2020-2021 school year, the calculation of learning gains for school grades and school improvement ratings means **the degree of student learning growth occurring from the 2018-2019 school year to the 2020-2021 school year** as required by state board rule, and for the calculation of the required **middle school acceleration component in school grades “prior year”** means the **2018-2019 school year**.

Adjustments to the 2020-2021 Accountability Calculations

- The criteria that defines a “learning gain” in accountability calculations shall remain the same, but the years considered will be the growth from 2018-19 to 2020-21.
- More information on these adjustments can be found on the department’s emergency response webpage (<http://www.fldoe.org/em-response/index.shtml>) in the Accountability Update webinar presentation from May 20, 2020:
 - <http://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/19861/urlt/K12AccountabilityWebinar.pdf>.

Schools Retain Pre-COVID designations, unless the “opt-in” results in a change in that designation:

- Schools of Excellence
- High Performing Charter
- Lowest 300 Performing Elementary Schools
- Persistently Low Performing
- Turnaround

Opting In and Revisions to the Lowest 300 Performing Elementary Schools List

- The determination of the lowest 300 performing elementary schools is based on a 3-year average of the ELA achievement and learning school grades components.
- **Since only some schools will opt in for a school grade this year, and some schools may test fewer than 90 percent of their students, ranking all schools based on 2020-21 data is inappropriate.**

Opting In and Revisions to the Lowest 300 Performing Elementary Schools List

- To determine whether a school that opts in for a school grade is either added or removed from the lowest 300 list, the following procedure will be used:
 - **If an elementary school opts in (and is approved) for a school grade**, the average of their ELA achievement and learning gains will be computed based on the 2020-21, 2018-19 and 2017-18 school years.
 - If the school is currently on the list, and their new 3-year average is higher than 88 (the last cut off value used to determine the list in Summer 2019), the school is removed from the list.
 - If the school's new 3-year average is 88 or lower, then the school is either added to the list or remains on the list.

Opting In and Revisions to the List of Schools of Excellence

- The determination of Schools of Excellence is based on a 3-year ranking of school grades data (percent of possible points), identifying schools whose performance falls in the 80th percentile or higher in at least 2 of 3 years.
- Just as with the determination of the Lowest 300 Performing Elementary Schools, **since only some schools will opt in for a school grade this year, and some schools may test fewer than 90 percent of their students, ranking all schools based on 2020-21 data is inappropriate.**

Opting In and Revisions to List of Schools of Excellence

- To determine whether a school that opts in for a school grade is either added or removed from the Schools of Excellence list the following procedure will be used:
 - **If school opts in (and is approved) for a school grade,** the 2020-21 percent of points will be evaluated against the percent of points threshold for the 80th percentile in 2018-19, the last year where performance could be ranked using a complete sample of graded schools.
 - In 2018-19, the percent of points aligned to the 80th percentile was 67 for elementary, middle and high schools; and 71 for combination schools.

VAM

- Since amended in 2017, state law (s. 1012.34(7)(b). F.S.) made VAM Scores purely optional for use in teacher evaluation.
- Per state law (s. 1012.34(3)(a)1, F.S.), the “performance of students” component of an educator’s evaluation is to be comprised of “data and indicators of student performance, as determined by each school district.”
- Per DOE Order No. 2021-EO-02, 3-year aggregate VAM scores will be provided to districts, including the three most recent years for which data are available, and to provide **maximum flexibility**, additional VAM scores based on 1 or 2 years of data will also be provided.
- **As always, districts are under no obligation to use these data in teacher evaluations.**
- VAM scores are expected to be available in mid-September.

Graduation Waivers Reporting Code

- Per DOE Order No. 2021-EO-02, districts may waive, on a case-by cases basis, the Algebra 1 and/or 10th Grade ELA assessment requirements for students who are otherwise expected to graduate in Spring 2021 and whose high school record establishes a comparable level of achievement.
- For these students, the same reporting code used for similar waivers last year (**WCO** for K-12 students and **W60** for adult high school students) should be used again in Survey 5.
 - The definition of these codes will be updated to reflect the language in DOE Order No. 2021-EO-02.
- A memorandum from Chancellor Oliva to superintendents was sent on Friday, May 7, 2021, announcing this information.

Contact Information

Bureau of Accountability Reporting

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