



DISTRICT FINALS

Secondary Grades

Pasco County Schools' District Finals are summative assessments. A **summative assessment** is generally given once at the end of some unit of time such as the semester or school year to evaluate students' performance against a defined set of content standards. Summative assessments include national, statewide, and some district assessments. The results of summative assessments may be used as a grade or as part of an accountability program. Some examples of summative assessments are: Florida Standards Assessment (FSA), Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT 2.0), National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), State End-of-Course Exams, District Finals, and Unit Tests.

Pasco County Schools' District Finals provide a way for us to:

- Help teachers focus on planning for and responding to instruction and student needs each year
- Communicate student progress towards mastery of the standards to both student and parent, as well as how a student compares to their peers in the same class or course
- Adjust curriculum and instructional resources and programs at the teacher, school, and district level

The development of a District Final (DF) is cyclical in nature to ensure the most valid and reliable assessments are provided. A four step process is used for District Finals, including content alignment, assessment development, assessment administration, and data analysis.

Content Alignment

District Finals are designed to measure a student's mastery of the prioritized standards at the end of a course. While the DF is aligned to the standards of the course, each DF cannot measure every standard in the course. Therefore, essential standards have been identified for the DF. These focus standards are the most important concepts of the course or are standards that live in the learning progression of the most important concepts.

Development Teams consisting of trained teachers, coaches, and/or content specialists review the key (essential) standards for each of their courses and then developed or selected test questions to measure students' mastery of the standards to be taught in the course. The R.E.A.L. categories are applied to prioritize standards (Many & Horrell, 2014). R.E.A.L. means the standard has been reviewed for its:

- Readiness contribution:** The standard provides essential knowledge and skills necessary for success in the next level.
- Endurance:** The standard provides students with knowledge and skills that are useful beyond a single unit.
- Assessed:** The standard will be assessed on future standardized assessments.
- Leverage:** The standard will provide students with knowledge and skills that will be of value in multiple disciplines. (Many & Horrell, 2014).

Each prioritized standard requires a minimum of two questions and may have more. These prioritized standards are identified on the blueprint for each DF, which is provided to teachers through the District Finals myLearning page (<https://pasco.instructure.com/courses/246>).

Assessment Development

Once all assessment items have been identified, the DF is built in the myProgress platform. This assessment platform allows for user-friendly, efficient administration of the DFs. Once built, each DF is reviewed by the course owner and at least one additional reviewer prior to being finalized for printing. With this review process, it is the goal to produce the most valid and reliable assessments possible.

Assessment Administration

DFs are secure assessments administered at the end of specific courses within either the district-defined fall or spring testing windows. The purpose of the DF is to measure students' mastery of the prioritized standards aligned to the course through a standardized administration by the district. Each DF was designed to be administered within one sitting for the district-defined required length of time. The required length for the DF by level is:

- Middle School Courses: 40 minutes**
- High School Courses: 80 minutes**

This does NOT apply to students who should receive their documented accommodations. It is recommended that a minimum of an additional 10 minutes be provided within the assessment period to read through the provided script.

Data Analysis

DFs provide meaningful information on each student's mastery of the prioritized standards taught throughout the course. Detailed reports of the data are quickly available to teachers, instructional staff, and administrators within myProgress. The Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) should use the data to reflect on past instruction and inform planning for future instruction. Results will be communicated to parents/guardians to inform them of their child's progress through the child's report card. Additionally, the overall score is uploaded to the local test history in myStudent within the parent's portal.

For any course with content that is not aligned with a statewide or other approved assessment, the student will be expected to take a District Final that will account for 10% of the student's semester grade. A converted grade will be reported using the following achievement bands:

District Final % Correct	Achievement Band	District Final Converted Grade based on Achievement Band
80% - 100%	5	100%
60% - 79%	4	89%
40% - 59%	3	79%
20% - 39%	2	69%
0% - 19%	1	59%

An item analysis is conducted each year and test items that are flagged through a statistical analysis are reviewed by the Development Team. The team makes recommendations for the item to be retained, revised, or removed. Not only is this information used to ensure the most valid and reliable assessments, but also used to inform curricular resource decisions at a district level. At this point, the process begins again for the following year.