

Orlando Science Charter School K-8 Assessment Practices Guide

Assessment Practices at Orlando Science Charter School K-8.....	2
Our Goals.....	2
Assessment Types:	2
Standardized Testing.....	3
Understanding Assessment Results:	3
District and State Assessment Practices and Requirements.....	4
Understanding Your Child's FAST Score Report.....	4
Summary:	4
Breakdown of Skills and Achievement Levels	4
Using Scores to Inform Instruction	4
Growth Tracking and Context.....	5
A Well-Rounded Picture of Student Learning.....	5
Communication and Collaboration	5
Understanding Your Child's Grades	5
Grading Scale	5
Un-weighted Grading Scale	6
Weighted Grading Scale	6
Reporting	6
Additional Notes:	7
Roles and Responsibilities	7
Leadership Team	7
Teachers	7
Students	8
Professional Development: Supporting Assessment Expertise.....	9
Summary:.....	9

Orlando Science Charter School K-8 Assessment Practices Guide

Focus Areas.....	9
Benefits.....	9
Ongoing Support	10
Assessment Practices Guide: Review and Revision	10
Review Committee.....	10
Review Frequency	10
Review Considerations.....	10
Revision Process.....	11
Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST)	11

Assessment Practices at Orlando Science Charter School K-8

This section provides an overview of our assessment practices at Orlando Science Charter School K-8 for Kindergarten through Eighth Grade. Our comprehensive system combines formative and summative assessments to provide a well-rounded picture of student learning and inform instructional decisions.

Our Goals

- Monitor student progress towards mastery of Florida's Benchmarks for Early Learning and Development (B.E.S.T.) in Kindergarten and the Florida Standards (Grades 1-8)
- Identify student strengths and weaknesses to personalize instruction
- Provide data to measure school and system effectiveness
- Inform continuous improvement of the school's curriculum and instructional practices
- Meet state and federal accountability requirements

Assessment Types:

We utilize a variety of assessments to gain a comprehensive understanding of student learning:

Orlando Science Charter School K-8 Assessment Practices Guide

- **Formative Assessments**
 - Ongoing classroom-based assessments (observations, quizzes, projects, etc.) used to monitor student learning and adjust instruction as needed.
 - Teacher-designed assessments aligned with learning objectives and B.E.S.T./Florida Standards.
 - Self-assessments and peer assessments to encourage student reflection and metacognition.
- **Summative Assessments**
 - Standardized testing:
 - **Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST)** (Grades 3-8; replaces FSA as of July 1, 2022) measures student achievement in English Language Arts (ELA), Mathematics, Science (Grades 5 & 8).
 - **Writing Assessments** (Grades 4-10) aligned to B.E.S.T./Florida Standards
 - District-developed or curriculum-based assessments to measure student mastery of specific skills or knowledge.
 - End-of-unit projects or presentations.

Standardized Testing

Orlando Science Charter School K8 recognizes the importance of standardized testing as one piece of data to inform instructional decisions. We will administer the FAST assessments according to the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) schedule.

- Parents will be notified of testing dates and receive information about how to support their child's preparation.
- Teachers will integrate practice activities aligned with the FAST format into their curriculum.

Understanding Assessment Results:

Assessment results are used to:

- Inform teacher instruction and identify areas where students may need additional support.
- Track student progress over time.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of our instructional program.
- Communicate student progress with parents and guardians.

Orlando Science Charter School K-8 Assessment Practices Guide

District and State Assessment Practices and Requirements

- **Standardized Assessments:** The school district schedules required assessments throughout the year and State standardized assessments at the end of the year (specific tests may vary by grade level). Examples may include Stanford Achievement Test (SAT), Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST), End-of-Course exams (EOCs), and Statewide Science Assessments.
- **Ongoing Assessments:** Teachers utilize a variety of ongoing assessments throughout the year. Grades are typically assigned on an A-F scale or a 100-point scale and entered into an online gradebook accessible to students and parents. Specific frequency requirements for grade entry may vary.
- **Reporting:** The school issues grade reports at the end of each quarter and progress reports mid-quarter.
- **Accommodations:** Accommodations are provided throughout the year and during testing for students with special needs as outlined in their Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) or 504 Plans, in accordance with the school's inclusion policy.

Understanding Your Child's FAST Score Report

Summary:

This section provides a helpful guide to understanding your child's Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST) score report. The report offers valuable insights into your child's academic progress and areas for continued learning.

Breakdown of Skills and Achievement Levels

- **Skills Breakdown:** The FAST report details your child's performance on various skills within each subject tested (e.g., Reading, Math, Science). This helps identify strengths and areas where additional support or practice may be beneficial.
- **Achievement Levels:** The FAST assessment uses four levels to indicate your child's progress towards mastering the knowledge and skills needed for future success: standard not met, standard nearly met, standard met, and standard exceeded.

Using Scores to Inform Instruction

Your child's scores are a valuable tool for teachers. They use this information to:

Orlando Science Charter School K-8 Assessment Practices Guide

- **Adjust Instruction:** Tailor lessons and activities to address individual student needs. This ensures focused attention on areas that require improvement while celebrating strengths.

Growth Tracking and Context

- **Growth Tracking:** Like a growth chart, assessments and scores change as your child progresses through grades. While year-to-year comparisons may show growth, remember that scores reflect different grade-level standards.

A Well-Rounded Picture of Student Learning

- **Part of a Bigger Picture:** Standardized tests like the FAST are just one piece of the puzzle. They are considered alongside classroom assignments, quizzes, report cards, and teacher observations to provide a comprehensive picture of your child's learning journey.

Communication and Collaboration

- You will typically receive your child's FAST score report before the new school year.
- We encourage parents to discuss the reports with their child's teacher during back-to-school season, parent-teacher conferences, or other meetings.
- Teachers are happy to answer questions and collaborate with families to develop strategies that support student learning at home and in school.

Understanding Your Child's Grades

Grading Scale

Our school uses a percentage-based grading scale to communicate student achievement in all courses. This scale translates into corresponding letter grades for end-of-year report cards.

- **90-100% (A):** Outstanding progress - Demonstrates exceptional understanding and mastery of course content.
- **80-89% (B):** Above Average Progress - Shows a strong understanding of course content and meets expectations consistently.
- **70-79% (C):** Average Progress - Meets expectations with some areas for improvement.

Orlando Science Charter School K-8 Assessment Practices Guide

- **60-69% (D):** Lowest Acceptable Progress - Meets minimum requirements but may require additional support.
- **0-59% (F):** Failing - Requires significant improvement and intervention.
- **I:** Incomplete: Course not completed
- **W:** Withdrawal: Student withdrawn

Grade	Percent	AP/VCC	Honors	Regular	Definition
A	90-100	6	5	4	Outstanding Progress
B	80-89	5	4	3	Above Average Progress
C	70-79	4	3	2	Average Progress
D	60-69	1	1	1	Lowest Acceptable Progress
F	0-59	0	0	0	Failure

Un-weighted Grading Scale

The grading system and interpretation of letter grades will be as prescribed by state statute (s.1003.437(1-5), F.S.).

Weighted Grading Scale

A weighted grading scale will be used to compute a grade point average when determining rank in class and will also be used to determine eligibility for an honors diploma per state statute (s.1003.437,F.S.). Grade values for the weighted scale are as follows:

Reporting

- **Progress Reports:** You will receive progress reports with numerical grades every 5th week of each grading period (typically 9 weeks). These reports provide a snapshot of your child's current performance.
- **Report Cards:** Formal report cards are issued every 9 weeks with numerical grades (except for end-of-year reports, which use letter grades). They offer a comprehensive overview of your child's academic progress throughout the grading period, including comments from teachers.
- **Final Grades:** Final grades for core academic courses are determined at the end of each 9-week grading period.

Orlando Science Charter School K-8 Assessment Practices Guide

- **Communication:** We encourage open communication with your child's teacher. If you have any questions regarding grades or report card information, please don't hesitate to reach out to them directly.

Additional Notes:

- The grading scale and reporting procedures are approved by the OSS Governing Board to ensure compliance with state standards.
- A grade below 60% is considered failing and may require additional intervention or credit recovery options.

Roles and Responsibilities

This section outlines the roles and responsibilities of various members of the school community regarding assessment practices.

Leadership Team

- The leadership team plays a crucial role in analyzing assessment data to identify areas where students may be struggling. This allows them to allocate resources and support programs strategically.
- When data indicates student difficulties, the leadership team partners with parents to understand their child's specific needs and develop targeted support strategies.
- The leadership team is responsible for coordinating and providing professional development opportunities for staff. These opportunities should ensure educators have a deep understanding and can effectively apply the school's assessment practices.

Teachers

- Teachers are responsible for designing and administering assessments that cater to the varied needs of all learners in their classrooms.
- By analyzing assessment results, teachers can make informed instructional decisions and personalize learning experiences for each student.
- Teachers utilize a variety of assessment methods throughout the learning process. Formative assessments provide ongoing feedback, while summative assessments measure student mastery of learning objectives.

Orlando Science Charter School K-8 Assessment Practices Guide

- Teachers should have a strong understanding of criterion-referenced assessments or rubrics, which clearly define expectations for student performance.
- Before administering summative assessments, teachers should share and explain the task-specific rubrics with students, ensuring clear understanding of grading criteria.
- Teachers participate in district and state-mandated standardized assessments, following established protocols.
- Collaboration with subject-area colleagues helps ensure consistency in assessment practices throughout the grade level.
- Teachers monitor student progress and work collaboratively with parents to address individual student needs. This may involve developing personalized learning plans or recommending additional support services.
- Effective teachers encourage students to take ownership of their learning journey. This includes helping students develop self-assessment skills and set personal learning goals.

Students

- Students are encouraged to develop a strong understanding of themselves as learners by reflecting on their strengths and weaknesses.
- Students can track their academic progress by reviewing grades on the student portal. This allows them to identify areas for improvement and celebrate achievements.
- Students are encouraged to proactively seek help or clarification from teachers when needed. Asking questions demonstrates a proactive approach to learning.
- Students should view constructive feedback as a valuable tool for further learning. Analyzing feedback helps them identify areas for improvement and develop stronger academic skills.
- Students should develop an appreciation for the value of teacher, peer, and self-assessment as tools for improving learning. These assessments provide valuable insights into their strengths and weaknesses.
- Students can collaborate with their parents to monitor their progress on the parent portal. This open communication fosters a supportive learning environment at home and school.
- Students are encouraged to work with the school to identify and address any academic challenges. This may involve communication with teachers, counselors, or other support staff.
- Students participate in district and state-mandated standardized assessments, following established protocols.

Orlando Science Charter School K-8 Assessment Practices Guide

Professional Development: Supporting Assessment Expertise

Summary:

Effective assessment practices are crucial for student success. This section outlines professional development opportunities designed to equip teachers with the skills and knowledge to leverage assessments for informed instruction and student growth.

Focus Areas

- **Assessment Administration and Interpretation:**
 - Workshops and training sessions will be offered to strengthen teachers' understanding of administering various assessments, including standardized tests and classroom-based assessments.
 - Opportunities to analyze and interpret assessment data will be provided, fostering teachers' ability to identify student strengths, weaknesses, and areas for targeted intervention.
- **Data-Driven Instruction:**
 - Professional development will focus on strategies for using assessment data to inform instructional decisions.
 - Teachers will learn how to tailor instruction to individual student needs and learning styles, maximizing the impact of classroom activities.
- **Differentiation for Diverse Learners:**
 - Professional development will equip teachers with strategies for differentiating instruction to meet the needs of all learners.
 - This may include workshops on creating tiered assignments, utilizing formative assessments for ongoing feedback, and incorporating technology to enhance learning experiences for diverse learners.

Benefits

Teachers will gain valuable skills in:

- Administering assessments accurately and efficiently.

Orlando Science Charter School K-8 Assessment Practices Guide

- Interpreting assessment data to identify student learning strengths and weaknesses.
- Using assessment data to inform decisions about curriculum, instruction, and interventions.
- Differentiating instruction to meet the needs of all learners.

Ongoing Support

In addition to these formal professional development opportunities, the school leadership team is committed to providing ongoing support for teachers in the area of assessment. This may include:

- Professional learning communities (PLCs) focused on assessment practices.
- Mentorship programs for new teachers.
- Collaboration with instructional coaches to develop and implement effective assessments.

Assessment Practices Guide: Review and Revision

Review Committee

A representative committee will be formed periodically to lead the assessment review process. This committee will include members from the leadership team and faculty, ensuring a diversity of perspectives are incorporated.

Review Frequency

The assessment practices will be reviewed on a regular basis, with the specific timeframe determined by the committee. This timeframe may be adjusted based on significant changes in educational practices or local community needs.

Review Considerations

During the review process, the committee will consider the following:

- How well do current assessment practices align with the school's curriculum and instructional practices?
- Are assessments effectively identifying student needs and measuring learning progress?
- Do current practices incorporate best practices in assessment?

Orlando Science Charter School K-8 Assessment Practices Guide

- Do assessments reflect changes in local community demographics and needs?
- Do assessments remain aligned with state and federal assessment mandates?

Revision Process

Based on the review findings, the committee may propose revisions to the school's assessment practices. These revisions will be presented to the school community for feedback before being finalized and implemented.

Additional Resources

This document provides a general overview of the school's assessment practices. For more specific details regarding assessments at your child's grade level, please refer to the individual grade-level curriculum documents. These documents will outline the specific assessments used, their frequency, and how they align with the learning objectives.

Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST):

The Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST) is a standardized assessment administered to students in Grades 3-8. For more information about the FAST assessment, its purpose, and student performance reports, please visit the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) website: <https://www.fldoe.org/accountability/assessments/>