

Understanding Your Child's 2014-15 FSA Score

September 2015



What are the Florida Standards, and what is the Florida Standards Assessment (FSA)?

- The Florida Standards, adopted by the State Board of Education in February, 2014, after a process of public input and review, emphasize preparation for college and career success.
- With new, more rigorous Florida Standards in place, the FCAT 2.0 no longer serves the purpose of measuring student progress and achievement.
- The Florida Standards Assessment, called the FSA, measures the new Florida Standards.



What subjects/grade levels take the FSA?

- FSA English Language Arts: Grades 3-10
- FSA Mathematics: Grades 3-8
- FSA Algebra 1 End of course exam (EOC): Students enrolled in Algebra 1 course
- FSA Algebra 2 EOC: Students enrolled in Algebra 2 course
- FSA Geometry EOC: Students enrolled in Geometry course

What subjects/grade levels take the FCAT 2.0 still, or the non-FSA End of Course exams?

- Grades 5 & 8: FCAT 2.0 Science
- Students enrolled in Biology: Biology EOC
- Students enrolled in US History: US History EOC
- Students enrolled in Civics: Civics EOC



Are learning gains being measured in 2014-15?

- Because 2014-15 is the first year of FSA administration, learning gains are ***NOT*** being measured for this year.
- In prior years, learning gains allowed school districts to show progress being made by students, even if the student did not achieve an on-grade-level/proficient score (achievement level 3).

Example: Remy scores an achievement level 1 on the grade 4 assessment. The following year, he scores an achievement level 2 on the grade 5 assessment. Learning gains give credit to the school for improving this student's score, but the proficiency-only model being used in 2014-15 only looks at the fact that Remy failed to earn a proficient score of achievement level 3.

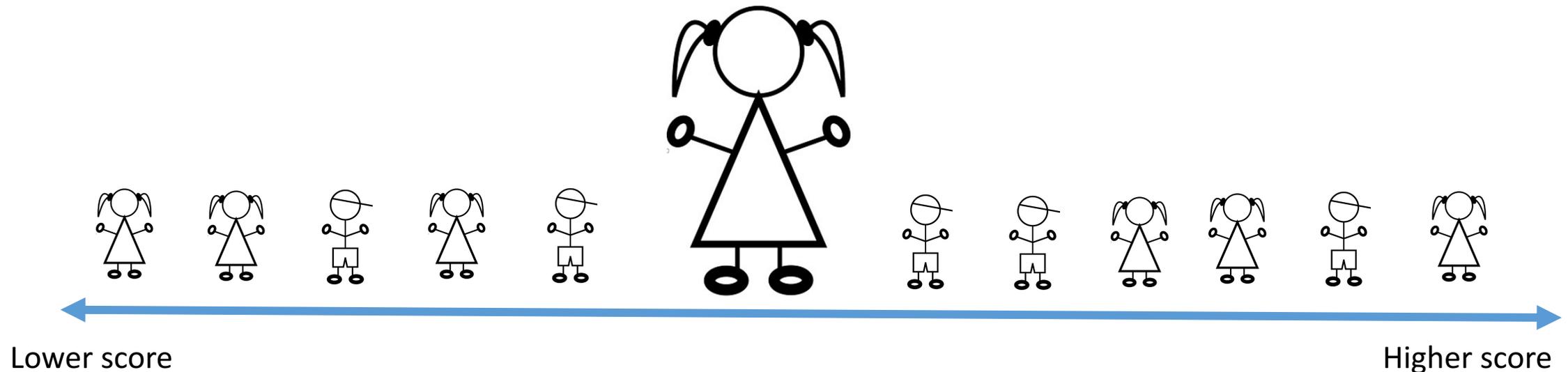


Will my child receive an achievement level (1-5) score for the 2014-15 FSA?

- Achievement levels describe the success that a student has achieved on the state assessment. These levels are only determined after a test has gone through the standard setting process. Because this process is still underway by the Florida Department of Education, student scores reported in September will be t-scores and percentile ranks. Achievement level scores like the ones we have seen in years past for the FCAT will be available some time in January 2016.

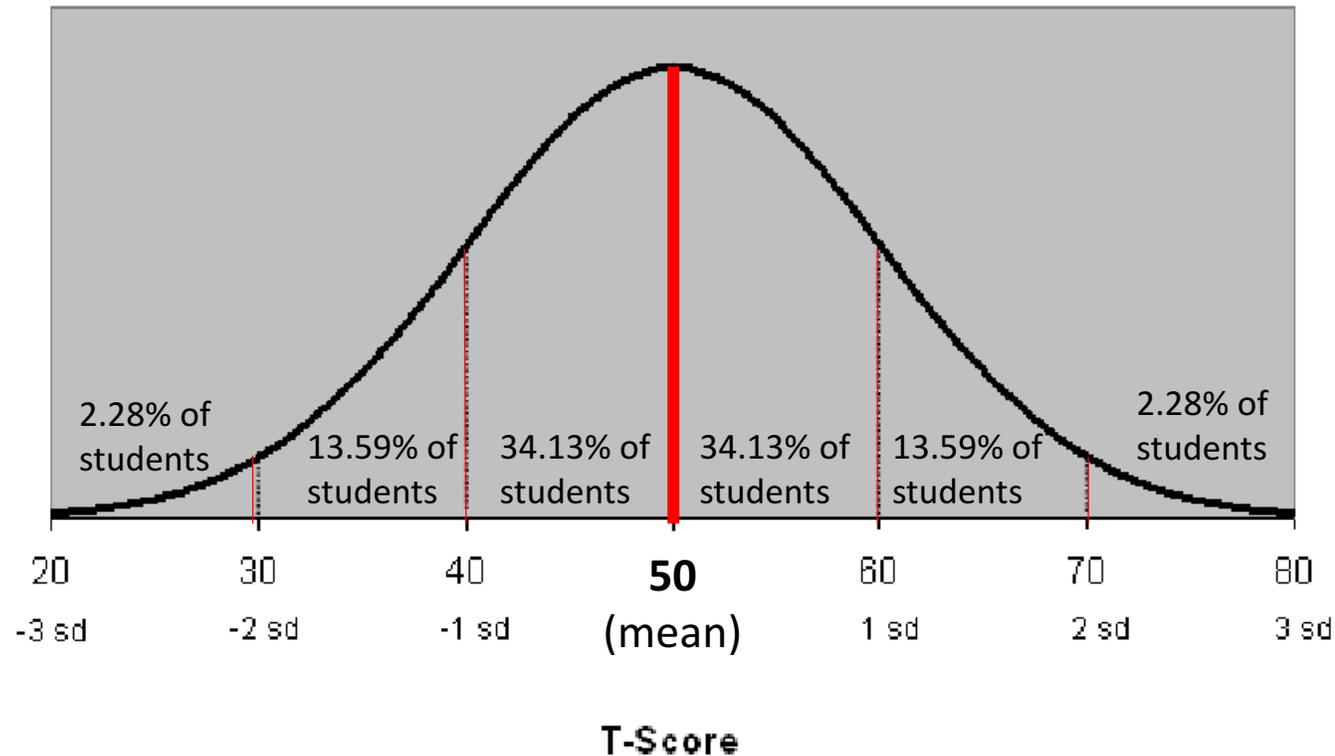
What is a percentile rank?

- A percentile rank tells you what percent of other students in the state of Florida earned the same or lower score on the test.



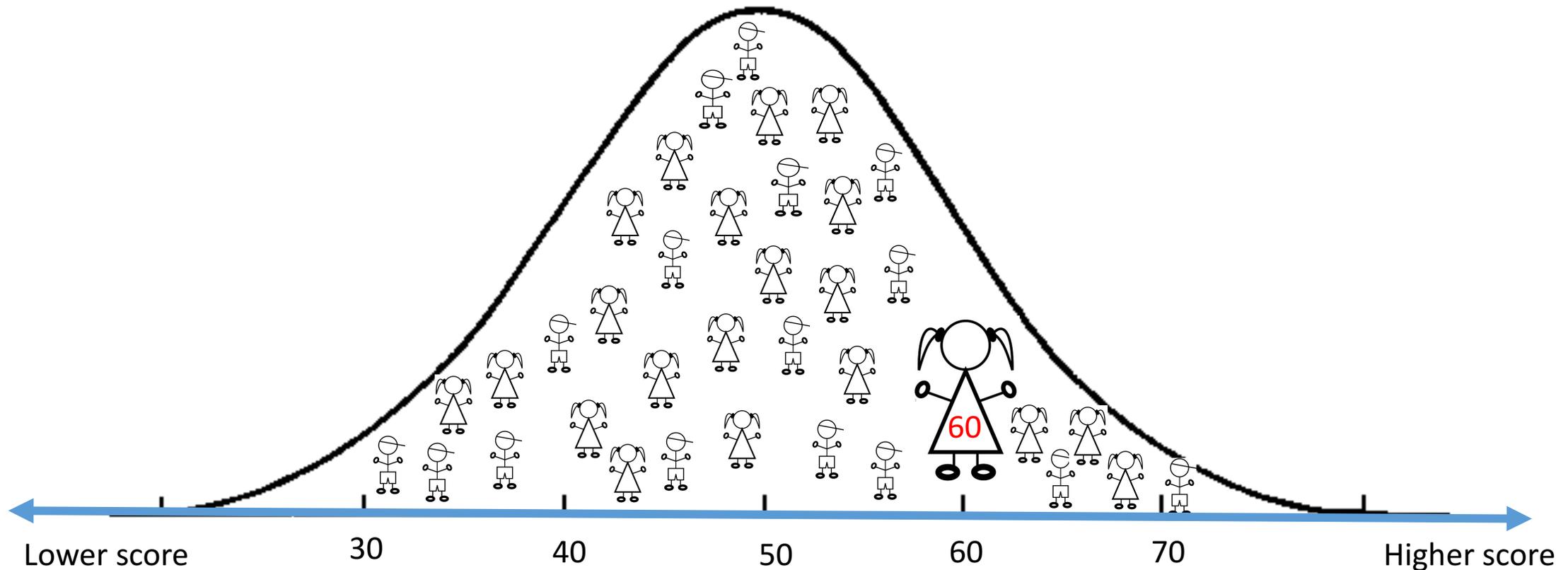
What is a t-score?

- A t-score is another way of reporting percentile rank.
- The mean t-score, or midpoint t-score, is 50. This means that a student who earns a t-score of 50 scored better than half of the students in the state who took the test and scored lower than half of the students in the state who took the test.



What is an example of a t-score, and what does it mean?

- Emma received a t-score of 60, which is equal to a score of the 84th percentile. This means that 84 percent of students scored lower than Emma on the test, and 16 percent of students scored higher than Emma on the test.



When will my child receive an achievement level (1-5) score for the FSA?

- Beginning in 2015-16, students who take the FSA in the spring administration will receive an achievement level score ranging from 1-5.
- Just like with the FCAT 2.0, a score of achievement level 3 is an on-grade-level, proficient score.