

## **FLORIDA WRITING ASSESSMENT (FLORIDA WRITING+)**

Florida Writes (FCAT Writing) is a statewide initiative to improve the writing proficiency of the students in Florida. Traditionally, students are presented with a prompt and asked to write a composition about it in 45 minutes. The type of assessment is referred to as “performance” assessment. The multiple choice format of traditional standardized tests was added in the 06/07. The “performance” and “multiple choice” answers are combined to produce a Writing Scale Score. The Writing+ Scale Score Ranges are used to establish Levels 1-5 similar to the Reading and Math Levels.

Student compositions are scored using a holistic scoring rubric and assigned scores from 1.0 to 6.0. Writing is evaluated for focus, organization, support, and conventions (grammar, punctuation, spelling, etc.). The Scale Scores are used for School Grading, while the Adequate Yearly Progress (No Child Left Behind) accountability system uses performance levels of 3.0 or higher.

Florida Writes is administered to students in grades 4, 8, and 10. Testing is done in late February and scores reported in mid-May of each year, generally as the percent of students scoring 3.5 or higher (or 3.0 or higher).

A new Florida Law will require students to pass (Level 3+) the Writing+ test in order to Graduate from High School. This law will apply to 9<sup>th</sup> graders in the 06/07 school year and beyond.

The School District of Lee County

# FCAT WRITING STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

## Continuous Improvement

