



Class of 2011 Testing Information

ACT Explore

What is the ACT Explore?

The ACT Explore is a timed test which exposes students to the format of the ACT. Colleges may use the ACT to help make admission and scholarship decisions. The ACT Explore is specifically normed for ninth grade students so your child is being compared to others in the same grade. The ACT Explore also provides feedback which will help prepare for college and work and explores some career options. The format for the ACT Explore includes 30 minute sections on English, Math, Reading and Science as well as a questionnaire on interests and goals. Results should be mailed before the winter holidays. A workshop on how to interpret your students scores will be held so watch the school calendar for more information.

When: Wed., Oct. 17, 7:20 am

What does my child need to bring: #2 pencils, a calculator

More information: <http://www.actstudent.org/explore/>

SOL Tests

What are they?

Standards of Learning (SOL) tests are administered by FCPS under the guidelines of the state of Virginia to meet the testing requirements for state accreditation and No Child Left Behind. These tests are given as end of course (EOC) tests beginning in mid-May each year. Tests are administered online to all students. **This year the test window begins May 21 and ends June 15.**

What courses have SOL tests?

Math: Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2

Social Studies: World History 1&2, US/VA History

Science: Biology, Chemistry/Chem Tech, Earth Science (Geosystems)

English 11: Reading, Writing (which is given in March)

Are they required?

All students enrolled in a class for credit must take the exam. Students who are auditing a class do not take it. All scores are counted for our participation and accreditation scores for the state and federal governments.

Do they count?

All students must pass a certain number of SOL tests in order to graduate. Tests needed depend on when student entered FCPS as a high school student and the type of diploma being earned. In addition, scores may contribute to a student's grade.

How will I know if my child passed?

Because our tests are administered online, we usually know within a week if a student passed. Teachers are responsible for notifying the students who didn't pass. Students who did not pass, but who scored between a 375-399 are given an opportunity to retake the test again before the end of the year. This past year, test results were mailed by the county in August.

What if my child doesn't pass?

If they score between 375-399 they are given an opportunity to retest before the end of the year. Otherwise we recommend registering for the three week remediation course offered through summer school and retaking the test in August. The next time Langley would offer the test would be January of the following year.

What if we just moved here from out of state or private school?

If your student took a high school course in middle school, they should take the appropriate SOL test in January. Review materials are available on the state website and through amazon.com or bn.com

More information: <http://www.pen.k12.va.us/VDOE/Parents/index.html>

Specific Questions: Contact Pam Jelinek, Assessment Coach
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