

FLORIDA CELLA INFORMATION

WHAT IS THE CELLA?

Florida uses the Comprehensive English Language Learning Assessment (CELLA) to measure the growth of students classified as English Language Learners (ELLs) in English language skills that they need to succeed in school.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE CELLA?

CELLA is designed to gather information for these purposes:

- To provide parents, students, and teachers with a gauge of how much English a student is learning so they will know when the student may be ready to exit the English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) program.
- To provide information about how well schools and districts are meeting the needs of ELLs.
- To provide education agencies and the public with information about the English proficiency of ELLs and their annual progress.

WHAT DOES THE CELLA CONTAIN?

CELLA tests:

- Listening
- Speaking
- Reading
- Writing

CELLA includes four levels: Level A (Grades K-2), Level B (Grades 3-5), Level C (Grades 6-8) and Level D (Grades 9-12).

Students will take the Listening, Reading, and Writing sections as a group. For the Speaking section, students will have a one-on-one interview with a teacher. (Younger students may have the entire test individually administered by a teacher.)

WHEN DO STUDENTS TAKE THE CELLA?

All of Florida students who were classified as ELLs took CELLA for the first time in the summer of 2006. ELLs will continue to take the CELLA annually each spring until they are reclassified as English proficient.

HOW CAN PARENTS HELP THEIR CHILDREN GET READY FOR THE CELLA?

The English language skills needed to succeed on CELLA can not be developed overnight. The "Testing Tips for Parents to Remember" provides both general strategies for helping students to learn throughout the school year and some tips for test day, to make sure performance on the test reflects students' true abilities.

TEST-TAKING TIPS FOR PARENTS TO REMEMBER

GENERAL STRATEGIES

1. Make sure the student **attends school regularly**. Remember that tests reflect students' overall achievement in school. The more often the child is in a learning situation, the more likely he or she is to do well on tests.
2. Give the student **encouragement** in learning English and in learning all other school subjects. Praise him or her for things done well throughout the year. A student who feels supported is more likely to learn more and do well on tests.
3. See that the student has a **well-rounded diet**. A healthy body leads to a healthy, active mind.
4. See that the student **completes homework assignments**. Homework supports classroom instruction and increases a student's ability to use English effectively.
5. **Meet with the student's teacher(s)** as often as possible to discuss progress. Parents and teachers should work together to help the student.
6. Make sure the student is **well-rested** on school days. Students who are tired are less likely to pay attention in class or to do well on class work and tests.
8. Finally, encourage the student to **relax**. Too much emphasis on test scores can make a student nervous, which makes it harder for them to demonstrate what they know on test day.

TIPS FOR TEST DAY

1. Make sure the student is **well-rested** and has a **healthy breakfast** on the day of the test.
2. Make sure the student arrives for school **on time**.
3. See that the student **dresses comfortably**. Students should wear clothes that are comfortable and appropriate for the weather.
4. If the student wears glasses or a hearing aid, make sure that he/she remembers to use them during all testing sessions.
5. If the student is supposed to receive any test-taking **accommodations** (for example, using a large-print or Braille version of the test), make sure he or she receives the accommodations.