

SOL Testing Spring 2021

**Thoreau Middle School
Parent Information Session**



Welcome!

**Thank you for being here!
We will take your questions at the end of the presentation**

Due to COVID-19, the state has offered SOL flexibility to local school divisions:

- **Reduced testing:** FCPS is using a state waiver to remove two SOL tests in Grade 8 for Writing and Civics/Economics.
- **Extended window:** Schools have more time available to schedule SOL tests. This is important for social-distanced testing, using days when students are already in the building where possible.
- **COVID-refusal option:** A new state policy allows parents to refuse a SOL test without the student receiving a “0” score.
- **Remote test:** For students attending virtually, a new progress monitoring test will be offered if parents refuse the SOL test.

2021 Middle School Assessments

Grade	SOL Tests	Local Alternative Assessments
7	Reading, Mathematics*	Social Studies
8	Reading, Mathematics*, Science	Writing, Social Studies

* For middle school students enrolled in a high school credit-bearing mathematics course, the Algebra 1, Geometry, or Algebra 2 SOL test is used to fulfill the federal testing requirement. Note that the Virginia Remote Student Progress Monitoring Test is not available for high school credit-bearing mathematics courses.

Standardized Assessments by Grade Level Prior to COVID-19

Grade 7	Grade 8
<p>Reading SOL</p> <p>Math SOL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Depends on math class taken <p><i>History PBA</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">•History SOL was removed in 2015•Students complete a performance- based assessment (PBA)	<p>Reading SOL</p> <p>Math SOL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Depends on math class taken <p>Civics SOL</p> <p>Science SOL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Covers content from grades 6, 7 and 8 <p>Writing SOL</p>

Standardized Assessments by Grade Level for SY 20-21

Grade 7	Grade 8
Reading SOL	Reading SOL
Math SOL	Math SOL
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Depends on math class taken	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Depends on math class taken
<i>History PBA</i>	Civics SOL - <i>Performance Based Assessment</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• History SOL was removed in 2015• Students complete a performance- based assessment (PBA)	Science SOL <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Covers content from grades 6, 7 and 8
	Writing SOL - <i>Performance Based Assessment</i>

What is a Performance Based Assessment?

- In-class assignments that evaluate the standards that would have been assessed on an SOL
- Graded by classroom teacher based on a standardized rubric; teachers complete a calibration process to ensure consistency
- Grades entered in SIS; no formal scores generated from VDOE
- **Will be completed this year for History 7, Writing 8, and Civics 8**

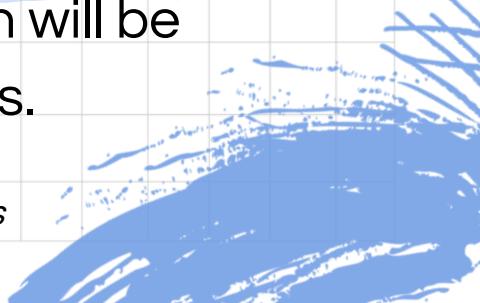


What will SOL administration look like this year?



- SOLs will be administered in-person for:
 - Reading 7 and Reading 8
 - Math (all levels)
 - Science 8
- Students with a preference for in-person instruction will take SOLs during their scheduled school days.
- Students with a preference for virtual instruction will be scheduled to come into the building on Mondays.

**there may be some exceptions for individual student accommodations*



Spring 2021 Testing Calendar

Monday Virtual	Tuesday Last Name A-K	Wednesday Last Name A-K	Thursday Last Name L-Z	Friday Last Name L-Z
May 3 SOL Proctor Training Times TBD	4 Student Pearson Training & computer health diagnostic through Eagle Time	5	6 Make-up student training/health diagnostic through Eagle Time	7
May 10 Reading 7/8 SOL VIRTUAL students only	11 Asynchronous AM #1 7th grade Reading 8th grade Reading (In-person A-K) <i>Testing bell schedule</i>	12 Make-up Testing	13 Make-up Testing	14 Asynchronous AM #2 7th grade Reading 8th grade Reading (In-person L-Z) <i>Testing bell schedule</i>
May 17 Science 8 SOL VIRTUAL students only	18 8th grade Science (In-person A-K; teacher 1 and 2) <i>*testing in large group</i> Make-up testing Grade 7	19 8th grade Science (In-person A-K; teacher 3 and 4) <i>*testing in large group</i> Make-up testing Grade 7	20 8th grade Science (In-person L-Z; teacher 1 and 2) <i>*testing in large group</i> Make-up testing Grade 7	21 8th grade Science (In-person L-Z; teacher 3 and 4) <i>*testing in large group</i> Make-up testing Grade 7
May 24 ALL Math SOL Tests VIRTUAL students only	25 Make-up Testing	26 Asynchronous AM #3 7th grade Math 8th grade Math (In-person A-K) <i>Testing bell schedule</i>	27 Asynchronous AM #4 7th grade Math 8th grade Math (In-person L-Z) <i>Testing bell schedule</i>	28 Make-up Testing

Spring 2021 Testing Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
May 31 Memorial Day Holiday	June 1 Algebra & Geometry Retakes/make-up testing	2 Algebra & Geometry Retakes/make-up testing	3 Algebra & Geometry Retakes/make-up testing	4 Algebra & Geometry Retakes/make-up testing

Testing for Students Attending In-Person

- All SOL tests must be taken *in-person* at schools, they are not available for remote delivery.
- When possible, students will be scheduled for testing on days when they normally attend school. In some cases, it may be necessary to schedule a testing appointment on a Monday or a different day than their schedule in-person learning day.
- Families have the **right to refuse** testing this spring.

Testing for Students Attending Virtually

- All SOL tests must be taken *in-person* at schools, they are not available for remote delivery.
- Students who attend school virtually will be scheduled to take SOL tests on Mondays in the month of May
- Families who do not wish for their fully virtual student to take SOL tests at school have the **right to refuse** testing.
- Those families who choose to refuse the grade 3-8 SOL reading and mathematics test for their virtual student will have the opportunity to have their student complete The Virginia Remote Student Progress Monitoring Test.

Considerations

Standards & Curriculum

- As far as we know, the SOL assessments have not been rewritten or revised for this current school year.
- FCPS reviewed state standards at the beginning of the year and emphasized essential standards.
- There may be questions on SOLs related to content that has not been covered in-depth this year.
- Teachers have planned strategic SOL preparation while maintaining instruction of essential skills.

Parent Refusal Alternate Assessment

- Although SOL tests will continue to be offered only in-person at schools, on March 2, 2021 VDOE announced a new assessment option for grade 3-8 students who attend fully virtually and whose caregivers have refused the in-person SOL test.
- VDOE intends to share details about this **Virginia Remote Student Progress Monitoring Test** by the end of March, and these non-SOL tests are expected to be available for divisions by mid-April.
- The SOL is still VDOE's preferred test and must be offered for students participating in virtual instruction.

Parent Refusals: 2 Types of Refusal

COVID-19 Related	Non COVID-19 Related
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Related to health concerns around the pandemic● Student will receive a score of “No Score” (NS)● Data will not be available for teachers to inform instructional decisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● For any reason other than COVID-19 related● Student will receive a score of zero (0)● Data will not be available for teachers to inform instructional decisions

Test Day Schedule - Asynchronous Days

Dates:

- Tuesday, May 11th
- Friday, May 14th
- Wednesday, May 26th
- Thursday, May 27th

Bell Schedule:

- AM testing for the entire school
- Students not testing will have asynchronous work
- Modified bell schedule with a delayed start for scheduled classes

Math Related Frequently Asked Questions

- Students only need one verified math credit to graduate from high school.
- Due to Federal Accountability standards, all students will be required to take a math SOL once they get to ninth grade.
- For most students, there will be no negative consequences for refusing to take the Algebra 1 or Geometry SOL in middle school as they will be expected to take the next level math SOL exam in the Spring of 2022, and they can use that to earn their verified credit.
- For 8th grade students moving into 9th grade: they will be offered the Algebra or Geometry SOL they may have refused/deferred this Spring in September 2021 or December-January in the Fall make-up window. This will not be *required* since they'll have to sit for their math SOL in the Spring of 2022.
- In the event a student ends up failing the higher level math SOL exam, they will continue to be offered opportunities to re-take previous math course SOL exams until they do receive the verified credit they need to graduate.

Math Related Frequently Asked Questions

- This year only (Spring 2021), students that score between a 350-399 will be automatically awarded a locally verified credit or “LVC” that counts as the verified credit needed for graduation.
- *Below 400 is still considered “failing” on the SOL, but from 350-399 (this year) is still high enough to count for the LVC.*
- If a student is currently in Geometry, they very likely took and passed Algebra I in a Virginia school last year (2019-2020). All Virginia school students that took and passed Algebra I last year (2019-2020) were already awarded a locally verified credit or “LVC” that counts as the verified credit needed for graduation. This means there is almost no reason for a current 8th grade Geometry student to feel pressured to take the SOL exam this Spring as they likely earned a LVC last year and will sit for Algebra 1 next year.
- As for summer school, students do not need to pass the SOL exam to register for the next course in summer school
- *There should always be counseling, however, around a student’s course placement when discussing accelerated math in summer school.*

Expedited Retakes

- There will be **no expedited retakes outside of the Algebra and Geometry SOL tests**

Next Steps

- We will be collecting information related to participation in SOL tests via a [Google Form](#).
- Emailed via eNotify March 22nd; please submit by Friday, April 2nd.
- Planning for SOL testing is VERY complicated: PLEASE RESPOND!!

Thoreau MS 

SOL Testing Intent Form

Your student was identified to participate in SOL tests based on their grade level and course enrollment. This form allows school staff to collect information about parent SOL refusals and about scheduling and transportation needs for students who will participate SOL tests.

Contact your student's counselor if you need help accessing or completing the form.

Please complete this form for each child who attends Thoreau Middle School.

* Required

Email address *

Your email

Helpful Websites

- Student Tests and Assessments
- Assessment Information for Families
- Assessment Notifications
- Health and Safety Protocols for Assessments
- Right to Refuse Assessments



Thank you!

Presentation and recording will be available on Thoreau website!