



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF  
**EDUCATION**  
fdoe.org

# Understanding B.E.S.T. Writing Reports for Families

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## Introduction

Florida’s Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking (B.E.S.T.) Standards were adopted by the State Board of Education on February 12, 2020. In Spring 2023, a B.E.S.T. Writing field test was administered to a representative sample of Florida students. The first operational administration of B.E.S.T. Writing was the Spring 2024 administration.

Please refer to the [B.E.S.T. Writing Fact Sheet](#) for more information on the B.E.S.T. Writing program.

Most students, including English Language Learners (ELLs) and exceptional student education (ESE) students, enrolled in the tested grade levels participate in the B.E.S.T. test administrations. Allowable accommodations are provided to ELL and ESE students with these accommodations documented on their Individual Education Plans (IEPs) or Section 504 Plans.

## Testing Format

Sample items are available in the [Sample Items](#) area of Florida’s Assessment Portal.

Paper-based accommodated test forms are provided for students with that accommodation listed on their IEPs or Section 504 Plans. Accommodated paper-based forms include regular print, large print, braille, and one-item-per-page; and computer-based accommodations include answer masking, text-to-speech (TTS), and speech-to-text (STT).

## B.E.S.T. Writing Scores

The B.E.S.T. Writing assessment is scored and reported on a 12-point rubric with the following dimensions: Purpose/Structure, Development, and Language. Each dimension is worth four possible points. Students will receive an overall raw score out of 12 points, with a minimum score of 3, and a raw score out of 4 points for each dimension. The [B.E.S.T. Writing Rubrics](#) are available on the FDOE website and are broken out by grade band (4–6 and 7–10) and prompt mode (Argumentative or Expository).

The B.E.S.T. Writing results are reported in Family Portal. B.E.S.T. Writing scores are reported separately from FAST ELA Reading; the two scores are not combined to create an overall ELA score. In addition, B.E.S.T. Writing scores are not reported in real time like other statewide assessments; they are reported **after** the testing window closes once all responses have been scored and quality assurance checks have been completed.

The following information is reported for grades 4–10 B.E.S.T. Writing:

- Students will receive an overall raw score and raw score by writing dimension (points earned out of points possible).
- Comparisons at the school, district, and state levels will be provided.

## Family Portal

Families can access their student's B.E.S.T. Writing results in Family Portal using the login information provided by the student's school, which includes the student's unique six-digit access code. Families can access the portal directly from the [Florida Statewide Assessments portal](#) or through their district's Student Information System (SIS).

On the Dashboard ([Figure 1](#)), families can see their student's overall raw score and download or print a copy of their student's Individual Student Report (ISR). Scores and ISRs are available in Family Portal after the testing window. Families can access additional information about their student's results by clicking on the View Detailed Report button (purple-shaded area). To download a copy of the ISR, families can click on the Download Detailed Report button (orange-shaded area).

Figure 1. Family Portal Dashboard

The screenshot shows the Family Portal dashboard for a demo student. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the Florida Department of Education logo, the text 'Family Portal', and links for 'Print' and 'Sign Out'. Below this is a blue header with a home icon, 'Welcome, Demo Student', 'Student ID: FL202411000024', and 'Date of Birth: 07/02/2015'. To the right of the header are icons for 'Glossary', 'Guide', and 'Resources'. The main content area displays 'Demo's Scores for 2024-2025 School Year' with a dropdown arrow. Below this are filters for 'Sorted by: Most Recent Test', 'Subjects: All', and 'Show All Tests from School Year: [toggle]'. A message states 'Currently Viewing: The most recent test in all subjects for the 2024-2025 school year'. The main test result is for 'B.E.S.T. Writing' with a 'View All Tests' link. It shows 'Your Student's Most Recent Test' as 'Grade 4 B.E.S.T. Writing' with a 'View Detailed Report' button. The test details include 'Date Taken: 03/31/2025', 'Test Window: Spring 2024-25 B.E.S.T. Writing', and 'Score: 10/12' with a 'Download Detailed Report' button. A horizontal bar chart shows the score of 10 on a 12-point rubric, with a label 'Your Child's Score' pointing to the bar. Below the chart, it says 'This test is scored on a 12-point rubric.'



**Note:** If a student is assigned a condition code, only an ISR will be available. The score will display the condition code. A condition code is assigned when a student's response does not meet the minimum requirements to receive a score. For example, if a student left the response blank, there would be no record.

The View Detailed Report button will navigate to the Detailed Report page (Figure 2), which contains the following tabs (orange-shaded area):

- **Overall:** This tab displays the overall results for the assessment that the student completed (Figure 2). For B.E.S.T. Writing, this includes the student’s overall raw score and raw score by writing dimension.
- **Test Questions:** This tab displays the student’s performance on the item (Figure 3). The number in the Item # column (blue-shaded area) is clickable and navigates to the student’s response. The Result column (purple-shaded area) will display one of the following symbols, depending on the student’s score:
  - **Correct** – If the student received a score of 12/12.
  - **Partial** – If the student received a score between 3/12 and 11/12.
  - **Incorrect** – If the student was assigned a condition code.
  - **Blank** – Not applicable to B.E.S.T. Writing.
- **Responses:** This tab displays the writing prompt the student received (blue-shaded area), the student’s actual response (purple-shaded area) and the rubric (orange-shaded area) used to score the response (Figure 4).
- **Resources to Help Your Student:** This tab contains links to resources corresponding to the test (Figure 5).

Figure 2. Family Portal – Detailed Report Page

The screenshot shows the Family Portal interface for a student's B.E.S.T. Writing results. The page includes a navigation bar with 'Home', 'Welcome, Demo Student', and 'Student ID: FL20241100023'. The main heading is 'Demo's Results for B.E.S.T. Writing'. Below this, there are four tabs: 'Overall', 'Test Questions', 'Responses', and 'Resources to Help Your Student'. The 'Overall' tab is selected and highlighted in orange. The 'Your Student's Overall Results' section shows a score of 3 out of 12 on a 12-point rubric. A bar chart visualizes the score, with a blue bar extending to 3 on a scale from 0 to 12. The 'Writing Performance' section contains a table with three columns: '1. Purpose/Structure', '2. Development', and '3. Language'. Each column lists specific criteria and the student's performance level.

Essay	1. Purpose/Structure	2. Development	3. Language
Writing Mode: Opinion/Argumentative	<p>3 out of 4 points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Claim is focused on the task and generally maintained throughout.</li> <li>Organizational structure is logical and allows for advancement of the argument.</li> <li>Varied transitional strategies connect ideas within and among paragraphs.</li> <li>Sufficient introduction and conclusion contribute to a sense of completeness.</li> </ul>	<p>3 out of 4 points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Logical development of ideas demonstrates understanding of the topic.</li> <li>Adequate elaboration may include (but may not be limited to) a combination of original student writing with paraphrasing, text evidence, examples, definitions, narrative, and/or rhetorical (Grade 6 and above) techniques as appropriate to support the argument.</li> <li>Relevant, integrated evidence from multiple sources lends credibility to the argument.</li> <li>Evidence is appropriately cited.</li> </ul>	<p>4 out of 4 points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Integration of academic vocabulary strengthens and furthers ideas.</li> <li>Skillful use of varied sentence structure contributes to fluidity of ideas.</li> <li>Use of standard English grammar, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling demonstrates consistent command of the communication of ideas.</li> <li>Tone and/or voice strengthens the overall argument.</li> </ul>

Figure 3. Family Portal – Test Questions Tab

The screenshot shows the Family Portal interface for a demo student. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the Florida Department of Education logo, the text 'Family Portal', and links for 'Print' and 'Sign Out'. Below this is a blue header with a home icon, 'Welcome, Demo Student', and the student's ID (FL202411000023) and date of birth (07/02/2015). On the right of the header are icons for 'Glossary', 'Guide', and 'Resources'. The main content area is titled 'Demo's Results for B.E.S.T. Writing' and has a sub-header 'B.E.S.T. Writing'. There are four tabs: 'Overall', 'Test Questions', 'Responses', and 'Resources to Help Your Student'. The 'Test Questions' tab is active. On the left, it shows test details: 'Grade 4 B.E.S.T. Writing', 'Date Taken: 03/31/2025', 'Test Window: Spring 2024-25 B.E.S.T. Writing', and a score of '10/12' with a 'Download Detailed Report' button. The main section is titled 'Your Student's Test Questions' and includes a legend for result types: 'Correct' (green checkmark), 'Partial' (yellow triangle), 'Incorrect' (red X), and 'Blank' (grey dash). Below the legend is a table with three columns: 'Item #', 'Result', and 'Score'. The table contains one row with '1' in the 'Item #' column, a yellow triangle in the 'Result' column, and '10/12' in the 'Score' column.

Item #	Result	Score
1	▲	10/12



**Note:** If a student is assigned a condition code, the score will display 0 over the overall score of 12.

Figure 4. Family Portal – Responses Tab

The screenshot displays the 'Family Portal' interface for a student named 'Demo Student'. The page is titled 'Demo's Results for B.E.S.T. Writing' and shows the 'Responses' tab for the 'B.E.S.T. Writing' test. The student's score is 10/12. The response is for 'Item 1 of 1' with a score of 10/12. The reporting category is 'Communicating through Writing' and the benchmark is 'Write to make a claim supporting a perspective with logical reasons, using evidence from multiple sources, elaboration, and an organizational structure with transitions.' The item prompt asks for an argumentative essay based on a provided prompt and sources. The student's response is visible in a text area, and the rationale for the score of 4 is provided below, detailing the student's purpose/structure and development.

**Florida Department of EDUCATION** Family Portal

Welcome, Demo Student  
Student ID: FL202411000023 Date of Birth: 07/02/2015

Home | Glossary | Grade | Resources

Print | Sign Out

**Demo's Results for B.E.S.T. Writing**

**B.E.S.T. Writing**

Overall | Test Questions | Responses | Resources to Help Your Student

Test: Grade 4 B.E.S.T. Writing  
Date Taken: 03/31/2025  
Test Window: Spring 2024-25 B.E.S.T. Writing  
Score: 10/12  
Download Detailed Report

**Your Student's Responses**

Item 1 of 1  
Score: 10/12

**Reporting Category**  
Communicating through Writing

**Benchmark**  
Write to make a claim supporting a perspective with logical reasons, using evidence from multiple sources, elaboration, and an organizational structure with transitions.

**Item**

Your argumentative essay must be based on this prompt and topic, and it must incorporate ideas and evidence found in the sources provided.

Use your best writing to complete an essay that

- is focused on your claim;
- combines evidence from multiple sources with your own elaboration to develop your ideas;
- is organized and includes transitions within and among ideas;
- provides citations for quoted material and source ideas; and
- demonstrates correct use of grammar and language appropriate to the task.

Write your multiparagraph essay to an academic audience in the space provided.

**Rationales**

Score: 4

**Purpose/Structure**

- Claim is focused on the task and consistently maintained throughout.
- Organizational structure strengthens the response and allows for advancement of the argument.
- Varied transitional strategies connect ideas within and among paragraphs, enhancing the progression of the response.
- Effective introduction and conclusion enhance the essay.

**Development**

- Skilful development demonstrates thorough understanding of the topic.
- Effective elaboration may include original student writing combined with (but may not be limited to) paraphrasing, text evidence, examples, definitions, narrative, and/or rhetorical (Grade 6 and above) techniques as appropriate to support the argument.
- Smoothly integrated, relevant evidence from multiple sources lends credibility to the argument.
- Counterclaim(s) may be present.
- Evidence is appropriately cited.

Figure 5. Family Portal – Resources Tab

The screenshot shows the Family Portal interface for a student's B.E.S.T. Writing report. At the top left is the Florida Department of Education logo and the text "Family Portal". To the right are "Print" and "Sign Out" links. A blue navigation bar contains a "Home" icon, the text "Welcome, Demo Student", and the student's ID (FL202411000023) and date of birth (07/02/2015). Further right are icons for "Glossary", "Guide", and "Resources".

The main content area is titled "Demo's Results for B.E.S.T. Writing". Below this is a tabbed interface with "B.E.S.T. Writing" selected. The tabs are "Overall", "Test Questions", "Responses", and "Resources to Help Your Student".

On the left side of the "Resources to Help Your Student" tab, the following information is displayed:

- Test: Grade 4 B.E.S.T. Writing
- Date Taken: 03/31/2025
- Test Window: Spring 2024-25 B.E.S.T. Writing
- Score: **10/12**

A "Download Detailed Report" button is located below the score. To the right, the "Resources To Help Your Student" section is titled and includes a "Print Resources" link. Underneath, the "Additional Resources" section lists two links: "B.E.S.T. Writing Fact Sheet" and "Understanding B.E.S.T. Writing Reports for Families".

## Individual Student Reports (ISR)

This is a one-page report that provides a summarized overview of a student’s performance. Below are explanations for the different sections included in the ISR for B.E.S.T. Writing. The student’s school may provide this report electronically through the district’s parent portal, a printed copy may be generated and distributed, or it may be accessed through the Family Portal.

### B.E.S.T. Writing Individual Student Report

The top of the ISR contains student, school, and district information and the grade level assessment the student took. The example shown in the following graphic is for a grade 9 B.E.S.T. Writing test:

- **Score information:** The **blue**-shaded area displays the student’s raw score.
- **Score comparison:** The **purple**-shaded area allows parents to see how their student's raw score compares with their peers at the school, district, and state level.
- **Notes for families:** The **orange**-shaded area contains important notes for families. This information may change between administrations.
- **Performance by Writing Dimension:** The **green**-shaded section displays the student’s achievement for each writing dimension on the test.

Figure 6. B.E.S.T. Writing Individual Student Report



Reporting

Individual Student Report

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**Lname, Fname**  
 Student ID: FL000000000007 | Student DOB: 7/2/2004 | Enrolled Grade: 9  
 Date Taken: 3/31/2025 | Test Reason: Spring 2024-25 B.E.S.T. Writing

**Grade 9 B.E.S.T. Writing 2024-2025**  
 Demo District (D9)  
 Demo School 1 (D9-9999)

**Raw Score: 6/12**

**How Does Your Student’s Score Compare?**

Name	Average Raw Score
Florida	7
Demo District	7
Demo School 1	8

Please visit the FAST Portal at [www.flfast.org](http://www.flfast.org) to access additional information and resources, including a [Parent Guide](#) that explains each element of this report and what it means for your student.

**How Did Your Student Perform on the Essay?**

Essay	Raw Score	1. Purpose/Structure	2. Development	3. Language
Writing Mode: Expository	6 out of 12 points	2 out of 4 points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Central idea may be unclear, loosely related or insufficiently sustained within the task.</li> <li>Organizational structure may be repetitive or inconsistent, disrupting the advancement of ideas.</li> <li>Transitions attempt to connect ideas but may lack purpose and/or variety.</li> <li>Introduction and conclusion may be present but repetitive, simplistic, or otherwise ineffective.</li> </ul>	2 out of 4 points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development may demonstrate partial or incomplete understanding of the topic.</li> <li>Elaboration may attempt to develop the central idea but may rely heavily on the sources, provide loosely related information, be repetitive or otherwise ineffective.</li> <li>Evidence may be partially integrated and/or related to the topic but disconnected from the exposition.</li> <li>Lacks appropriate citations.</li> </ul>	2 out of 4 points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vocabulary and word choice may be imprecise or basic, demonstrating partial command of expression of ideas.</li> <li>Sentence structure may be partially controlled, somewhat simplistic, or lacking grade-appropriate language facility.</li> <li>Inconsistent use of correct grammar, punctuation, capitalization, and/or spelling may contain multiple distracting errors, demonstrating partial command of standard English conventions.</li> <li>Tone and/or voice may be inconsistent.</li> <li>May be grammatically accurate but too brief to demonstrate grade-appropriate command of language skills.</li> </ul>

## B.E.S.T. Writing Individual Student Report with a Condition Code

Should a student response receive a condition code, the condition code text will be displayed instead of a score. The example shown in the following graphic is for an assessment with the Insufficient condition code. See below for a list of other possible condition codes.

- **Score information:** The **blue**-shaded area displays the condition code the student received.
- **Score comparison:** The **purple**-shaded area allows parents to see the average raw score at the school, district, and state level.
- **Notes for families:** The **orange**-shaded area contains important notes for families. This information may change between administrations.
- **Performance by Writing Dimension:** The **green**-shaded section displays a description of the condition code the student received.

*Figure 7. B.E.S.T. Writing Individual Student Report with a Condition Code*



### Reporting

### Individual Student Report

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**Lname, Fname**  
 Student ID: FL000000000008 | Student DOB: 7/2/2004 | Enrolled Grade: 9  
 Date Taken: 3/31/2025 | Test Reason: Spring 2024-25 B.E.S.T. Writing

**Grade 9 B.E.S.T. Writing 2024-2025**  
 Demo District (D9)  
 Demo School 1 (D9-9999)

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**Raw Score: Insufficient**

How Does Your Student's Score Compare?

Name	Average Raw Score
Florida	7
Demo District	7
Demo School 1	8

Please visit the FAST Portal at [www.ffast.org/](http://www.ffast.org/) to access additional information and resources, including a [Parent Guide](#) that explains each element of this report and what it means for your student.

How Did Your Student Perform on the Essay?

Essay	Raw Score	1. Purpose/Structure	2. Development	3. Language
Writing Mode: Expository	Not available	Your student response is unscorable. The response is assigned a condition code of Insufficient, which means that the response does not contain enough writing to be scored.	Your student response is unscorable. The response is assigned a condition code of Insufficient, which means that the response does not contain enough writing to be scored.	Your student response is unscorable. The response is assigned a condition code of Insufficient, which means that the response does not contain enough writing to be scored.

## Condition Codes

When a condition code is assigned to a student response, no score is reported for that student. One of the following condition codes is assigned when a student's response does not meet the minimal requirements to receive a score.

Condition Code	Description
Insufficient	The response does not contain enough writing to be scored.
Off-Topic	The response does not address the writing prompt.
Foreign Language	The response is written in a language other than English.
Illegible/Incomprehensible	The response cannot be read or understood.
Copied Text	The response consists of Copied Text from the passages and an insufficient amount of original student writing.
Common Refusal/ Common Refusal Words	The response indicated non-participation in the writing task.

## Change Log

Location	Change	Date
Throughout Guide	Updated screenshots and links where appropriate.	05/01/25
<a href="#">Testing Format</a>	Added Speech-to-Text as an online accommodation.	05/01/25

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