

2004-2005 FCAT Explorer Letter to Parents

Dear Parents:

We are pleased to inform you that the Florida Department of Education offers students in Florida's public school system access to an educational Web site called the FCAT Explorer. This free resource is designed to help your child practice reading and math skills outlined in the Sunshine State Standards. Currently, the FCAT Explorer offers reading programs for 3rd, 4th, 6th, 8th, and 10th grades, and math programs for 5th, 8th, and 10th grades. You can find the FCAT Explorer on the Internet at www.fcatexplorer.com. Your child's classroom teacher will provide your child with a sign-in name and password.

The FCAT Explorer practice programs provide your child with practice questions and other educational materials that strengthen the skills measured by the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) for reading and math. The FCAT Explorer provides a creative, exciting context for your child's learning experience while reinforcing subject areas such as science and history.

About FCAT Explorer:

The FCAT Explorer is available to all Florida public school children, their teachers, and their parents.

Children can access the FCAT Explorer from computers at school or at home.

The FCAT Explorer includes a Parent and Family Guide, offering practical advice and focused activities for parents, guardians, and mentors who want to help children succeed.

The FCAT Explorer is free. **There is no cost to students, teachers, schools, or school districts.**

For your child to use the FCAT Explorer at home, your home computer must meet the technical requirements listed below. If you have any questions concerning these technical requirements or the use of the FCAT Explorer, please contact the FCAT Explorer Help Desk toll-free at 1-888-750-3228 or click on the "Contact Us" e-mail link available on the FCAT Explorer Web site. Technical support staff will be happy to assist you Monday through Friday, 8:30 AM to 5:30 PM.

- **Operating System:** Windows 95 or higher or Macintosh system 8.6 or higher
- **Web Browser:** Microsoft Internet Explorer 5.0 or higher recommended. Please note: Netscape Navigator 6.0 is not supported for FCAT Explorer use on any operating system.
- **Software:** The most recent Macromedia Flash Player (a quick and easy download is available from the FCAT Explorer Web site.)
- **Display Resolution:** VGA (640 x 480) minimum; SVGA (800 x 600 or higher)
- **Display Color Depth:** 8-bit (256 colors) minimum, 16-bit (thousands of colors) recommended
- **Internet Connection:** 56.6 kbps modem or network connection speed recommended (28.8 kbps modem minimum)

We believe you and your child will find the FCAT Explorer practice programs to be a valuable learning resource.