

Postsecondary Education Readiness Test (P.E.R.T.)

Frequently Asked Questions

This *Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)* addresses various questions regarding Florida's Postsecondary Education Readiness Test (P.E.R.T.) that have been posed by districts and schools. The first section provides a history of P.E.R.T. and answers questions regarding content and general testing. The second section focuses on logistical questions such as funding and computer requirements. This *FAQ* will be updated continuously as implementation decisions are finalized.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

History and Development of P.E.R.T.	6
What is the P.E.R.T.?	6
What does the P.E.R.T. assess?	6
Why did Florida decide to move from the College Board’s Accuplacer or CPT to the P.E.R.T.?	6
How is the P.E.R.T. different from other college placement tests?	6
How was the P.E.R.T. developed?	7
What are the Postsecondary Readiness Competencies?	7
How were the Postsecondary Readiness Competencies (PRCs) created?	7
What is developmental education?	7
What is the P.E.R.T. Diagnostic?	8
P.E.R.T. Technical Information	8
How many questions are on the P.E.R.T.?	8
How long will it take to administer the assessment?	8
What is a computer adaptive test?	8
What are the technical requirements to administer the P.E.R.T.?	9
How can districts and schools access technical support for P.E.R.T.?	9
P.E.R.T. Cut-Scores	10
Can a student fail P.E.R.T.?	10
What is the P.E.R.T. scaled score range?	10
What are the P.E.R.T. college-ready cut scores?	10
How were P.E.R.T. cut scores determined?	11
Can students use P.E.R.T. scores for earning Bright Futures Scholarships?	11
College Readiness Testing in the High Schools	11
Why are high school students taking a college placement test?	11
Who will administer the P.E.R.T. assessment to 11th grade students, local colleges or high schools?	11
If an 11th grader does not have FCAT or Algebra 1 scores, is he/she required to take the P.E.R.T.?	12

<u>Our district has an inter-institutional articulation agreement with our local college; doesn't this mean they are responsible for testing our students?</u>	12
<u>Will colleges continue to administer the P.E.R.T. for dual enrollment eligibility?</u>	12
<u>How will Florida Virtual School students take the P.E.R.T.?</u>	12
<u>P.E.R.T. Administration in the High Schools</u>	12
<u>Is there training for districts and schools on P.E.R.T. administration?</u>	12
<u>Which students will need to take P.E.R.T.?</u>	13
<u>Are Dual Enrollment students considered to be college ready?</u>	13
<u>Where are DJJ students tested?</u>	13
<u>Do Hospital/Homebound students take P.E.R.T.?</u>	13
<u>If a junior is required to be tested for college readiness but misses the scheduled test, is he/she to be enrolled in a postsecondary preparatory instruction course in their senior year?</u>	13
<u>Is there a State P.E.R.T. testing window?</u>	13
<u>What is the time lapse between the first and second attempt to take P.E.R.T.?</u>	13
<u>Can a Spring FCAT Retake score of Level 4 or 5 be used to exempt a student otherwise required from taking a college readiness or success course?</u>	13
<u>Who will be authorized to administer or proctor the test?</u>	13
<u>Does every Testing Site Manager need to sign a test security form?</u>	14
<u>Could the P.E.R.T. be administered at times other than regular school hours (weekends, for example)?</u>	14
<u>Are teachers allowed to administer the test to individual students in their classrooms using classroom computers?</u>	14
<u>How will districts and schools access P.E.R.T. scores?</u>	14
<u>Who will have access to student scores (students, teachers, guidance counselors, administration, parents, colleges)?</u>	14
<u>Will districts and colleges share P.E.R.T. score results?</u>	14
<u>Does it matter whether a high school student takes the P.E.R.T. at a high school or at a college campus?</u>	14
<u>Can colleges still use CPT for Dual Enrollment testing?</u>	14
<u>How many times can a student who is taking Dual Enrollment take P.E.R.T.?</u>	14
<u>Are students allowed to take the P.E.R.T. multiple times?</u>	15
<u>Are students allowed to use calculators?</u>	15

<u>What is required for students who do not meet the college-ready cut score?</u>	15
<u>Do these 5 courses need to meet class-size compliance?</u>	15
<u>If a Reading Level 2 student takes English 4: College Prep, does it meet both reading intervention and college success remediation requirements?</u>	15
<u>Is the Math for College Readiness course exclusive to seniors?</u>	15
<u>If students take P.E.R.T. at the end of one of the College Readiness or Success courses, can it be used as a final exam and rolled into the course grade?</u>	15
<u>What happens when a student does meet the cut-off score?</u>	156
<u>What is a "perfect" P.E.R.T. score?</u>	16
<u>Is there a time limit for younger students who score college-ready on ACT, SAT, or CPT to be exempt from taking P.E.R.T.?</u>	16
<u>If a 12th grade student gets the concordant score on ACT or SAT once the school year is underway, will the student be able to move out of the College Readiness course and take a higher level course?</u>	16
<u>For Reading Level 2 students, can either Reading for College Success or English 4: College Prep serve as the statutory reading intervention course?</u>	16
<u>What are the certification requirements for the 5 courses?</u>	16
<u>Can students be enrolled in English 4: College Prep for the required college readiness course, even with P.E.R.T. scores below 104?</u>	16
<u>Can districts decide whether to offer the half credit (semester) or full credit (year long) postsecondary preparation courses for the required students?</u>	16
<u>Are there any waivers for taking P.E.R.T.?</u>	16
<u>What method will be used for the high schools to determine the number of students who are college-ready?</u>	16
<u>P.E.R.T. Cost and Funding</u>	17
<u>How much does the P.E.R.T. cost?</u>	17
<u>What costs will State funding cover?</u>	17
<u>How will districts pay for the cost of P.E.R.T.?</u>	17
<u>Accommodations for P.E.R.T.</u>	17
<u>Are there testing accommodations for students with disabilities?</u>	17
<u>Which students are eligible for accommodations?</u>	17
<u>Is there a paper version of P.E.R.T. available for high schools?</u>	17
<u>Communications Regarding P.E.R.T.</u>	188

[Where does the Department direct communications related to the P.E.R.T.?](#)..... 188

[Who should districts and schools contact with questions?](#).....18

History and Development of P.E.R.T.

What is the P.E.R.T.?

The Postsecondary Education Readiness Test (P.E.R.T.) is Florida's common placement test. This test is used by all 28 Florida colleges and school districts to determine whether or not a student is ready for college credit courses in math and English. The P.E.R.T. is aligned with the Postsecondary Readiness Competencies that Florida faculty members have identified as necessary for success in entry-level college credit coursework. The test vendor, McCann Associates, has worked collaboratively with the Florida Department of Education's Division of Florida Colleges and Florida College System faculty to develop and tailor items to faculty specifications. P.E.R.T. is comprised of three 25-item, computer adaptive subtests in reading, writing, and mathematics. Florida College System institutions began administering the P.E.R.T. in October 2010, and it is expected to be used as the primary college placement tool.

What does the P.E.R.T. assess?

The P.E.R.T. assesses readiness for college-level coursework in English and mathematics. There are three subject area tests – reading, writing, and mathematics. A student's scores determine appropriate course placement upon entering college and in preparation for college as high school students.

Why did Florida decide to move from the College Board's Accuplacer or CPT to the P.E.R.T.?

Florida had a preferred price contract with the College Board to offer the Accuplacer to Florida colleges for a fixed price. That contract expired and the Department of Education (Department) entered into a competitive procurement process. A cross-sector team of experts unanimously selected McCann Associates as Florida's next preferred college placement test vendor on the basis of their content quality and alignment to the Postsecondary Readiness Competencies. Within their proposal, McCann Associates also indicated a willingness to customize the assessment to Florida's specifications.

How is the P.E.R.T. different from other college placement tests?

The P.E.R.T. is a fully customized placement test. This means it is based on Florida's Postsecondary Readiness Competencies and was developed according to the Department's specifications. College placement tests like the College Board's Accuplacer and ACT's COMPASS have been widely used in states and institutions across the nation for years. The distinction between these existing college placement tests is the fact that the P.E.R.T. was developed collaboratively between the test vendor, McCann Associates, the Florida Department of Education's Division of Florida Colleges, and Florida postsecondary faculty. Every item on the P.E.R.T. has been reviewed and approved by Florida faculty who volunteered their time and expertise.

How was the P.E.R.T. developed?

The P.E.R.T. is aligned with knowledge and skills Florida faculty have determined to be essential for students entering college-level courses in English and mathematics. Faculty members from Florida colleges were asked to identify the competencies critical for success in entry-level college credit courses. The test blueprint was then based on those prioritized competencies. In addition, each item on the reading, writing, and mathematics subject area tests were reviewed and approved by Florida postsecondary faculty and aligned with a *Postsecondary Readiness Competency*.

What are the Postsecondary Readiness Competencies?

The Postsecondary Readiness Competencies (PRCs) are skills identified by high school, college and state university faculty as critical to college readiness in mathematics, reading, and writing. Entry-level college credit courses are *Intermediate Algebra* (MAT 1033) and *Freshman Composition I* (ENC 1101). The PRCs for reading, writing, and mathematics may be accessed on the Division of Florida Colleges' career readiness website at <http://www.fldoe.org/cc/collegecareerreadiness.asp>. The PRCs are comprised of a subset of the Common Core College and Career Readiness Standards, Basic Skills Exit competencies, and American Diploma Project Benchmarks.

How were the Postsecondary Readiness Competencies (PRCs) created?

The PRCs were developed in 2008 as a result of Florida joining Achieves American Diploma Project Network. Over 70 faculty members from high schools, Florida colleges, and public and private universities reviewed the American Diploma Project benchmarks and identified competencies they deemed critical to college readiness in mathematics, reading, and writing. Surveys were sent to key business and industry representatives to review faculty-identified benchmarks to ensure that the competencies were also aligned with the knowledge and skills necessary to be career-ready. This cross-sector endeavor resulted in the identification of Florida's Postsecondary Readiness Competencies (PRCs). The PRCs have been revised to better align with the Common Core State Standards.

What is developmental education?

Developmental education is the postsecondary preparatory instruction offered in the Florida College System institutions, also referred to as remediation or college prep. Florida College System faculty developed common developmental education competencies that were then divided into two separate levels of instruction: lower and upper. Beginning in fall 2011, all Florida College System institutions now deliver developmental education based on the common competencies and common courses. The Higher Level Developmental Education courses in reading, writing, and mathematics are the basis for the postsecondary preparatory instruction in high schools – Reading for College Success (course # 1008350), Writing for College Success (course # 1009370), and Mathematics for College Success (course # 1200410). In addition to these three .5 elective credit courses, Mathematics for College Readiness (course # 1200700) and

English 4: Florida College Prep (course # 1001405) are aligned to the Postsecondary Readiness Competencies and count as a full credit towards high school graduation requirements in the subject area. The purpose of aligning the high school and college “remediation” is to reduce the number of high school graduates needing additional preparatory instruction before enrolling in college-level courses.

What is the P.E.R.T. Diagnostic?

The P.E.R.T. Diagnostic is another component of the P.E.R.T. assessment system. While the P.E.R.T. Placement determines appropriate course placement, the P.E.R.T. Diagnostic identifies, by competency, where skill deficiencies exist. The goal of the P.E.R.T. Diagnostic is to allow faculty to target instruction to specific competencies not yet mastered by the student. Upper and lower level P.E.R.T. diagnostic tests have been developed to align with the Developmental Education Competencies which are the basis for developmental education courses offered at all Florida College System institutions. For students who do not meet college-ready cut scores, a P.E.R.T. Diagnostic may be administered and results used to guide instruction.

P.E.R.T. Technical Information

How many questions are on the P.E.R.T.?

There are a total of 30 questions per placement subtest. There are 25 operational items that will be the basis of the student’s placement score and five field-test items which are designed to enhance continuously the operational test bank. Students will not know which items are operational, so it is imperative that they try their best on all 30 items.

How long will it take to administer the assessment?

The P.E.R.T. assessment is a computer adaptive test (C.A.T.) and is untimed. The average time to complete the mathematics and writing subtests is approximately 30 minutes. The reading test average is one hour.

What is a computer adaptive test?

The goal of a computer adaptive test (C.A.T.) is to increase the accuracy of the estimate of a student’s ability while at the same time minimizing the number of items presented to the student. In more traditional testing situations, all students respond to the same questions. Questions may be too easy or too difficult for a particular student, yet the student must wade through all of the items on the test to get a score. C.A.T. eliminates this issue by starting with an average ability item and then, based on the student’s response, subsequent items are selected to be near the student’s ability level. The P.E.R.T. is a competency-based C.A.T., meaning the adaptive nature of the test is at the competency level, and item difficulty adjusts on the basis of responses to items aligned with particular competencies.

What are the technical requirements to administer the P.E.R.T.?

The following shows the computer requirements for the P.E.R.T.

Hardware requirements

Computer Type	Pentium 500 or greater; Macintosh equivalent
Input Devices	Keyboard and Mouse
Memory	64 MB or greater
Display	15" SVGA monitor with 1024x768 resolution

Software Requirements

Browser type and version	Internet Explorer 7.0+ Firefox 3.0+ Google Chrome 3.0+ Safari 3.0+
Platform (Operating System)	Windows XP, Vista, or 7 Mac OS 10.2+
Macromedia Flash	Macromedia Flash 9.0+
Adobe Acrobat	Adobe Acrobat 6.0+
Popups	Popups are not blocked
Screen Resolution	1024 X 768

Districts and schools should test their computers by going to college.measuredsuccess.com and clicking "Check My Computer."

How can districts and schools access technical support for P.E.R.T.?

McCann and Associates provides technical support through a toll-free phone number and e-mail. The College Success Help Desk number is 1-877-614-6105. The hours of operation for the help desk are listed below. E-mail: collegesuccess@mccanntesting.com

Monday	7:30 AM – 8:00 PM (EST)
Tuesday	7:30 AM – 11:00 PM (EST)
Wednesday	7:30 AM – 11:00 PM (EST)

Thursday	7:30 AM – 11:00 PM (EST)
Friday	7:30 AM – 5:30 PM (EST)
Saturday	9:30 AM – 5:00 PM (EST)
Sunday	No coverage

Note: The McCann Assoc. Help Desk can also assist callers with P.E.R.T. testing questions.
1-866-933-0508

P.E.R.T. Cut-Scores

Can a student fail P.E.R.T.?

No, a student cannot fail the P.E.R.T. The purpose of the P.E.R.T. is accurate course placement based on the student’s skills and abilities. Test scores are used to determine whether a student is ready for college-level coursework. For those who do not meet the state established cut score, the score is an indicator that additional preparation is necessary before entering college-level courses. For high school students who do not meet the college-ready cut score on the P.E.R.T., the high school must offer those student postsecondary preparatory instruction.

What is the P.E.R.T. scaled score range?

The scaled scores range from 50-150.

What are the P.E.R.T. college-ready cut scores?

The current course placement score ranges for the P.E.R.T. are:

Mathematics:

Lower Level Developmental Education	Scores of 50-95
Higher Level Developmental Education	Scores of 96-112
Intermediate Algebra (MAT 1033)	Scores of 113*-122
College Algebra or higher (MAC 1105)	Scores of 123-150

**113 is the college-ready cut score for mathematics.*

Reading:

Lower Level Developmental Education	Scores of 50-83
Higher Level Developmental Education	Scores of 84-103
Freshman Composition Skills I (ENC 1101)	Scores of 104*-150

**104 is the college-ready cut score for reading*

Writing:

Lower Level Developmental Education

Scores of 50-89

Higher Level Developmental Education

Scores of 90-98

Freshman Composition Skills I (ENC 1101)

Scores of 99*-150

**99 is the college-ready cut score for writing.*

Students scoring at or above the college-ready cut score are eligible to enroll in college-level courses. Students must meet college-ready cut scores in reading and writing to be eligible to enroll in the entry-level English course, ENC 1101.

How were P.E.R.T. cut scores determined?

Since the P.E.R.T. is a new assessment, cut scores were determined by matching scores of the previous college placement test (College Board's Accuplacer, also referred to as CPT) and student distribution in courses based on those scores. The interim scores are set to mirror the current distribution of students in developmental education and college-level courses until research and increased administrations of P.E.R.T. can deliver a more reliable way to place students based on their scores.

Can students use P.E.R.T. cut scores for earning Bright Futures Scholarships?

No.

College Readiness Testing in the High Schools

Why are high school students taking a college placement test?

During the 2011 legislative session, Section 1008.30, Florida Statutes, was revised as a result of the passing of House Bill 1255 to expand college placement testing by **requiring** administration to high school students scoring within specified ranges on the 10th grade Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) Reading 2.0 (Level 2 or 3) and Algebra 1 End of Course (EOC) (Level 2, 3 or 4). The legislation also requires high schools to provide postsecondary preparatory instruction for students who do not meet or exceed the approved college-ready cut scores.

Who will administer the P.E.R.T. assessment to 11th grade students, local colleges or high schools?

As a result of the passing of House Bill 1255 and the requirement that all high school students within the specified FCAT levels be administered a college placement test, the responsibility for testing has shifted from the colleges to the high schools. Since funding for college placement tests administered to high school students flowed to the colleges in the past, it is necessary for the Department to establish a new funding process through an annual grant to school districts. Funds were appropriated in 2011 and 2012 for the purpose of administering the college placement test to high school students pursuant to s. 1008.30, F.S.

If an 11th grader does not have FCAT or Algebra 1 scores, is he/she required to take the P.E.R.T.?

No.

Our district has an inter-institutional articulation agreement with our local college; doesn't this mean they are responsible for testing our students?

The passing of House Bill 1255 increased the number of high school students that are required to take the college placement test. Your local college will not be able to meet that demand nor will the colleges be able to receive reimbursement for high school testing. The testing responsibilities have shifted to high schools to better serve K-12 students and expedite testing.

Will colleges continue to administer the P.E.R.T. for dual enrollment eligibility?

In the future, high schools will be responsible for all P.E.R.T. administrations to high school students; however, your district inter-institutional articulation agreement should indicate P.E.R.T. protocols for perspective dual enrollment students. It is anticipated that a few Florida College System institutions may continue to administer P.E.R.T. to prospective dual enrollment students until high school testing procedures are finalized.

How will Florida Virtual School students take the P.E.R.T.?

Florida Virtual School students must take required state assessments in their district of residence. Florida Virtual Schools will communicate with students' respective home districts regarding the number of students requiring P.E.R.T. testing and the type of test(s) needed.

P.E.R.T. Administration in the High Schools

Is there training for districts and schools on P.E.R.T. administration?

McCann Associates, in cooperation with the Florida Department of Education (Department), conducted face-to-face trainings and webinar/conference calls last year. The Department provides updates to superintendents and designated district P.E.R.T. contacts.

P.E.R.T. resources and training materials are posted and updated on the McCann College Success and the Department websites at <https://college.measuredsuccess.com> and <http://www.fldoe.org/cc/pert.asp>.

Postsecondary Readiness Competencies can be found on the Division of Florida Colleges' career readiness website at <http://www.fldoe.org/cc/collegecareerreadiness.asp>, and a P.E.R.T. Study Guide can be found at <http://www.fldoe.org/schools/pdf/PERT-StudentStudyGuide.pdf>.

Which students will need to take P.E.R.T.?

High school students who score a Level 2 or 3 on FCAT Reading 2.0 or score a Level 2, 3, or 4 on Algebra 1 EOC as 10th grade students and have not otherwise demonstrated college readiness will be required to take the P.E.R.T. in the 11th grade.

Are Dual Enrollment students considered to be college-ready?

Yes, in those subject areas they are taking at a state college. The cut scores are the same as for P.E.R.T.

Where are Department of Juvenile Justice(DJJ) students tested?

At their program site unless the serving district decides to test at a different location. The serving district is also responsible for registering DJJ test takers.

Do Hospital/Homebound students take P.E.R.T.?

Yes, if they also take FCAT.

If a junior is required to be tested for college readiness but misses the scheduled test, is he/she to be enrolled in a postsecondary preparatory instruction course in their senior year?

Yes.

Is there a State P.E.R.T. testing window?

No. Each district determines its own testing window. However, the Department does not want P.E.R.T. testing to interfere with FCAT testing dates, and all testing must be completed in time to place students into the appropriate courses for their 12th grade year.

What is the time lapse between the first and second attempt to take P.E.R.T.?

There is no required time lapse, but our recommendation would be after additional instruction has occurred.

Can a Spring FCAT Retake score of Level 4 or 5 be used to exempt a student otherwise required from taking a college readiness or success course?

Yes.

Who will be authorized to administer or proctor the test?

District assessment coordinators must ensure that all school administrators, school assessment coordinators, technology coordinators, test administrators, and proctors receive adequate training prior to test administration and that all personnel involved in test administration sign and return Test Administration and Security agreements which are provided with grant applications and test administration training materials.

Does every Testing Site Manager need to sign a test security form?

Yes.

Could the P.E.R.T. be administered at times other than regular school hours (weekends, for example)?

Yes, provided that the tests are administered by authorized test administrators and during hours of the Help Desk operation.

Are teachers allowed to administer the test to individual students in their classrooms using classroom computers?

The P.E.R.T. has to be administered in a location that is secure and monitored throughout the entire assessment by an authorized test administrator.

How will districts and schools access P.E.R.T. scores?

Scores are available immediately to district and college test administrators for C.A.T. administrations through their McCann accounts. Paper-based P.E.R.T. administrations, available for students requiring testing accommodations based on Individual Educational Plans (IEPs) or 504 plans, are mailed to McCann for scoring and reporting. Results are sent back to districts.

Who will have access to student scores (students, teachers, guidance counselors, administration, parents, and colleges)?

College students and authorized test administrators will have immediate access to C.A.T. scores. Each district will be able to determine who has authorized access to the test scores. For paper-based P.E.R.T. administrations, the scores will be uploaded to the district's testing account once the answer sheets are delivered to and scored by McCann.

Will districts and colleges share P.E.R.T. score results?

The sharing of scores between districts and colleges should be determined locally, and the process should be included in the annual district articulation agreement. Through the state test repository, P.E.R.T. scores will be available to districts and colleges.

Does it matter whether a high school student takes P.E.R.T. at a high school or at a college campus?

No. P.E.R.T. scores earned at either location must be accepted regardless of the location of the test administration, in accordance with State Board Rule 6A.-10.0315, FAC.

Can colleges still use CPT for Dual Enrollment testing?

Yes, for as long as the college still has CPT tests in inventory; afterwards, P.E.R.T. will be used.

How many times can a student who is taking Dual Enrollment take P.E.R.T.?

Twice total during high school regardless of testing at the high school or at the college.

Are students allowed to take the P.E.R.T. multiple times?

State Board of Education Rule 6A-10.0315, F.A.C., was amended to include retesting policies. Students are allowed to take P.E.R.T. twice during high school and twice during college.

Are students allowed to use calculators?

Students taking the online math test are not allowed to use handheld calculators. An on-screen calculator appears within the testing window of the mathematics subtest for specific questions. All students are allowed to use this pop-up calculator that has been built in to the P.E.R.T. testing platform. Students with disabilities may use handheld calculators if specified in their IEP.

What is required for students who do not meet the college-ready cut score?

Students who are required to be tested on P.E.R.T. and do not meet the state established college-ready cut score must complete postsecondary preparatory instruction in their senior year. This is a high school requirement for students whose P.E.R.T. scores indicate a need for additional preparation before being ready for college-level coursework. Mathematics/Reading/Writing for College Success have been developed to align with the highest level of developmental education courses offered by Florida College System institutions and the Postsecondary Readiness Competencies. The purpose of aligning the high school and college instruction is to reduce the number of high school graduates needing college remediation before enrolling in college-level courses.

Do these five courses need to meet class-size compliance?

Yes.

If a Reading Level 2 student takes English 4: College Prep, does it meet both reading intervention and college success remediation requirements?

No.

Is the Math for College Readiness course exclusive to seniors?

No.

Are any of the Readiness courses currently available on Florida Virtual?

Only Reading for College Success is available at this time.

If students take P.E.R.T. at the end of one of the College Readiness or Success courses, can it be used as a final exam and rolled into the course grade?

It is a District option.

What happens when a student does meet the cut-off score?

Students who meet the P.E.R.T. cut-score have demonstrated college readiness. These students may enroll in college-level courses at a Florida College System institution immediately following high school graduation.

What is a “perfect” P.E.R.T. score?

150 (for each of the three subtests).

Is there a time limit for younger students who score college-ready on ACT, SAT, or CPT to be exempt from taking P.E.R.T.?

No. Scores from these different tests can be used to show that a student is college ready.

If a 12th grade student gets the concordant score on ACT or SAT once the school year is underway, will the student be able to move out of the College Readiness course and take a higher level course?

Yes.

For Reading Level 2 students, can either Reading for College Success or English 4: College Prep serve as the statutory reading intervention course?

Yes.

What are the certification requirements for the five courses?

English or Reading. The 2012-13 Course Code Directory notes that 1001405 English 4: Florida College Prep has a 6-12 English Certification Requirement, and 1008350 Reading for College Success has a Reading Certification/Reading Endorsement Requirement.

Can students be enrolled in English 4: College Prep for their required college readiness course, even with P.E.R.T. scores below 104?

Yes, it is at the district’s discretion.

Can districts decide whether to offer the half credit (semester) or full credit (year long) postsecondary preparation courses for the required students?

Yes.

Are there any waivers for taking P.E.R.T.?

No.

What method will be used for the high schools to determine the number of students who are college-ready?

For college readiness, the denominator of the calculation comprises all on-time graduates (students who graduate in four years). We match these students to test results for the ACT, SAT, CPT, and P.E.R.T., using data available for multiple years. The college readiness indicator is

based on the number of on-time graduates who scored ready on at least one of the tests noted above at some point during their years in high school. A “percent-tested” measure is not calculated for high school grades outside the state assessments (e.g., FCAT 2.0, Algebra 1 EOC assessment, and other EOC assessments that will be implemented in the coming years).

P.E.R.T. Cost and Funding

How much does the P.E.R.T. cost?

The P.E.R.T. costs \$0.94 per subject area test for a total of \$2.82 for all three subtests (reading, writing and mathematics), unless the test is in Braille (\$15.00), large print (\$5.00), or audio version (\$5.00 per CD).

What costs will State funding cover?

State funds will cover the cost of the test units for 11th grade students required to be tested. If the state allocation allows it, additional students can be tested, as determined by the district. Districts also may choose to purchase additional units that can be used to test other students or to provide P.E.R.T. retakes.

How will districts pay for the cost of P.E.R.T.?

The Department issues a district entitlement grant to cover the cost of the units for required students. Test units are ordered from McCann Associates directly by each district.

Accommodations for P.E.R.T.

Are there testing accommodations for students with disabilities?

Yes. Testing accommodations for students with disabilities include an accessibility wizard built into the assessment that allows students to adjust the font size on the screen. Within the same wizard, they can also change the font color and the background color, which provides different contrast for those who need it. Braille, large print and audio versions, and standard pencil/paper versions are available at a higher cost per unit.

Which students are eligible for accommodations?

Students who have an IEP, English Language Learner (ELL) or 504 plan that authorizes specific accommodations on standardized tests may use the appropriate P.E.R.T. accommodations.

Is there a paper version of P.E.R.T. available for high schools?

Yes, but high schools are expected to primarily administer the C.A.T. version of P.E.R.T. except to those students whose IEP or 504 plans specify testing accommodations.

Communications Regarding P.E.R.T.

Where does the Department direct communications related to the P.E.R.T.?

The Department disseminates information primarily by e-mail to superintendents and the designated district P.E.R.T. contact. P.E.R.T. websites are updated.

Who should districts and schools contact with questions?

A dedicated e-mail account for P.E.R.T. questions has been created. The email address is pert@fldoe.org.