

# Infrastructure Trial Description

## Florida Department of Education

### Computer-Based Assessment Certification

September 1, 2011

In an effort to assist schools in preparation for high-stakes computer-based assessment administrations, the Department is implementing a Computer-Based Assessment Certification process. Schools and districts will take steps to ensure they are prepared to successfully administer high-stakes computer-based tests to students.

Throughout the school year, schools will complete a survey through a web-based **Certification Tool**. This tool will provide information to districts and the state regarding the number of computers available for testing, scheduling plans, and completion of preparation tasks.

The purpose of this document is to provide you with more detailed information regarding the Infrastructure Trial, which is to be conducted on a local level prior to March 2, 2012.

**What is the Infrastructure Trial?** The Infrastructure Trial is a computer-based test using mock content that will allow districts and schools to simulate a computer-based administration, thereby testing their hardware and network prior to the operational administration. For the Infrastructure Trial, Pearson has developed a sample test comprised of Reading passages and mock questions to simulate test content similar in size to the operational tests. **The Trial is not designed to be used for student practice.**

This Trial is an opportunity for districts and schools to simulate test-day network utilization, to determine any school or district issues, and to confirm that all workstations can run the appropriate software. Schools should set up the Trial to use the maximum number of concurrent computers planned for the spring 2012 administration.

**When is the Infrastructure Trial?** The Trial should take place prior to March 2, 2012. Each district will select a day to run the Trial to simulate its projected maximum district-wide usage on a day of testing. The Trial should take approximately **thirty minutes** for users to log in, supply random answers, and submit the test.

Materials and software for the Trial are posted to [www.FLAssessments.com/AdditionalResources](http://www.FLAssessments.com/AdditionalResources).

#### **What are districts and schools required to do?**

##### **Activities prior to the scheduled Infrastructure Trial:**

- Download and read the *Infrastructure Readiness Guide* that is posted to [www.FLAssessments.com/InfrastructureReadinessGuide](http://www.FLAssessments.com/InfrastructureReadinessGuide) and includes all instructions necessary to run the Trial.
- Districts should plan to conduct their Infrastructure Trial at a time that will match as closely as possible the anticipated school and district bandwidth utilization that will occur during spring assessments.
- Schools should create the same testing environment (e.g., testing rooms, number of computers, appropriate switches and hubs, power supply) that will be used for testing in the spring.
- Schools will prepare by downloading and installing the TestNav software and the Proctor Caching software, per the instructions provided by the FDOE and Pearson.
- Schools will manage the Trial test sessions in the PearsonAccess Training Center, print Student Authorization Tickets, and use the tools provided by Pearson to determine network user capacity and bandwidth requirements.

### Activities during the scheduled Infrastructure Trial:

- During the dates and times designated by the district, schools will simulate the appropriate number of student logins based on the maximum number of computers that will be used concurrently for testing in the spring.
- Students who may or may not be participating in a computer-based administration (e.g., not necessary to use computer-based testing students) or adult volunteers may complete the task of logging all workstations on to the Trial in TestNav 6.9. Schools are not required to use students.
  - EXAMPLE: If a school has 5 labs with 25 computers in each that will be used concurrently for testing, the Trial should be run on all 125 workstations at the same time. Students and/or adults should all attempt to log on to the system at the same time from all 125 workstations.
- Pearson support staff is available via phone (877-847-8043) and email ([florida@support.pearson.com](mailto:florida@support.pearson.com)) to help school and district staff troubleshoot any problems that may arise.

While the Trial should be conducted prior to March 2, 2012, local versions of the Trial can be run at any time throughout the year to check the setup and readiness of student workstations. Also, once the software has been installed and confirmed on the workstations, it should be ready for use for all administrations as long as there are no major changes to the workstations prior to testing.

### Infrastructure Trial vs. Practice Test

**Please remember that the content in the Infrastructure Test is NOT appropriate for student practice.** While we understand that many students would like to see a full-length practice test, the Infrastructure Trial was not designed for that purpose. The chart below describes the differences between the test used in the Infrastructure Trial and the student Practice Tests (ePats).

Infrastructure Trial Test	Practice Tests (ePats)
Designed to test school and district infrastructure and requires a specific number of large items	Designed specifically to introduce students to the testing platform, the e-tools, and the types of questions that will be on the computer-based assessment
Available only through school setup and administration in the Training Center	Available to all students from PearsonAccess
Will place an equivalent load on district network infrastructure similar to that of actual computer-based testing	Runs as “standalone” software – does not place any data traffic load on district network or internet bandwidth
Demonstrates full security of testing platform	Does not demonstrate security of testing platform, which makes it more accessible for students to use at home
Single Trial test developed to be used with all of Florida’s computer-based assessments	A new practice test is developed for each content area <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ FCAT Mathematics Retake</li><li>▪ FCAT Reading Retake</li><li>▪ FCAT 2.0 Reading Retake</li><li>▪ Algebra 1 EOC</li><li>▪ Biology 1 EOC</li><li>▪ Geometry EOC</li><li>▪ FCAT 2.0 Grade 6 Reading, FCAT 2.0 Grade 10 Reading, and U.S. History EOC will all be available by mid-January</li></ul>

## Accessing Practice Tests

Instructions and links to access the ePat practice tests can be found on Florida's PearsonAccess website under the *ePAT* tab or at [www.FLAssessments.com/ePATs](http://www.FLAssessments.com/ePATs).

Florida Department of **EDUCATION** PearsonAccess

Home Support Training Center ePAT

Home > ePAT

**ePAT**

Electronic Practice Assessment Tools

The tools here are intended to support and enhance student preparation for Florida's computer-based assessments. These practice tests provide direct exposure to the format and structure of the items. You can access installation instructions, practice test answers, and practice test scripts under the Resources tab.

Practice Assessment Tools Resources

**ePat Launcher**  
Make sure you download and install the ePat Launcher before using the tools listed below.

- [Install Launcher \(Windows\)](#)

Thank you in advance for your hard work as we prepare for spring CBT administrations. If you have questions about the Infrastructure Trial, please contact Jenny Black at [Jenny.Black@fldoe.org](mailto:Jenny.Black@fldoe.org) or 850.245.9470.