

FCATEXPLORER & FOCUS NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 4, SUMMER 2007



CONTENTS

- DID YOU KNOW?
- SUMMER READING CAMPS: USING FCAT EXPLORER
- HELP STUDENTS PREPARE FOR FCAT RETAKES
- FCAT EXPLORER TEAM TO ATTEND 2007 JUST READ, FLORIDA! K-12 READING CONFERENCE
- ITEM ANALYSIS FOR FCAT EXPLORER AND FOCUS
- FCAT EXPLORER PREPARES FOR 2007-2008 SCHOOL YEAR

As summer break nears, we'd like to thank all of you who encouraged your students to use FCAT Explorer and FOCUS this year.

Did you know?

● At the beginning of every school year, our Support Services Team enrolls each Florida public school student in FCAT Explorer and FOCUS.

● During peak usage, over 2.5 million answers are submitted daily.

● Currently, over 2.3 million users are enrolled with FCAT Explorer.



● Since FCAT Explorer's inception, over 440 million practice questions have been answered.

● FCAT Explorer and FOCUS are available even when school isn't in session.

● The 5th grade science program, Science Station, will be available June 1.

As always, we welcome your input on FCAT Explorer and FOCUS programs and on this newsletter. You can give us feedback by using the Contact Us link on the FCAT Explorer (www.fcatexplorer.com) or FOCUS (focus.florida-achieves.com) Web sites, or you may call our Support Services Team at 1-888-750-3228.

Enjoy your summer! ■

SUMMER READING CAMPS: USING FCAT EXPLORER

Statewide enrollment in the FCAT Explorer for summer reading camps is currently underway. Teachers, reading coaches, and school administrators should start enrolling their reading camp students now. Reading camp coordinators can enroll students in the program using the tools in the School Administrator's Desk and the Teacher's Desk of FCAT Explorer.



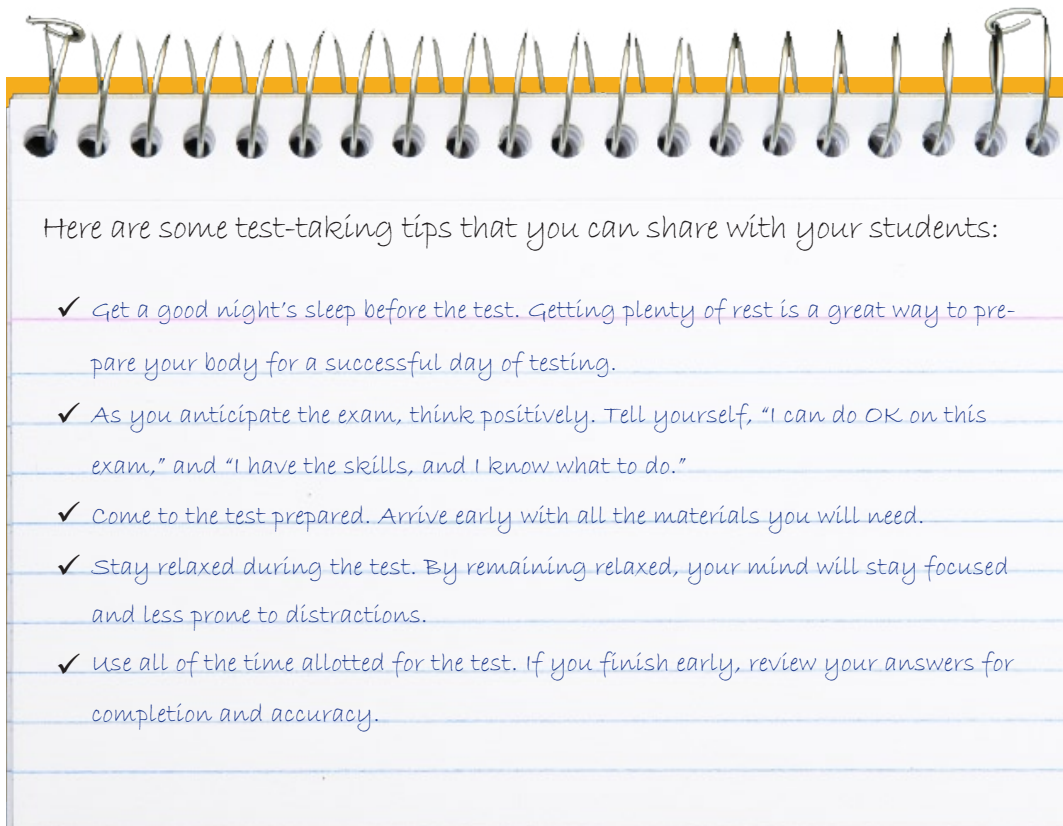
During May, the Support Services Team will be contacting summer reading camp coordinators to offer our assistance. But you don't have to wait to hear from us.

Coordinators may contact the FCAT Explorer Support Services team by calling 1-888-750-3228 or using the Contact Us link on the FCAT Explorer Website, www.fcatexplorer.com. We will be glad to help you complete the enrollment process—including grouping students and creating new logins—for your school. ■

“Teachers, reading coaches, and school administrators should start enrolling their reading camp students now.”

HELP STUDENTS PREPARE FOR FCAT RETAKES

FCAT retakes are just around the corner. Now is a great time for students to log on to FCAT Explorer.





The FCAT Explorer Support Services team will be attending the **Just Read, Florida! K-12 Leadership Conference** again this year. The conference will take place August 5-8, 2007 at the Rosen Shingle Creek Resort in Orlando.

The Just Read, Florida! Conference provides essential information about reading and literacy to Florida school administrators and reading coaches. The Support Services team will be available at the conference to answer questions and demonstrate the FCAT Explorer programs. If you are planning to attend, be sure to stop by the FCAT Explorer booth, pick up a free FCAT Explorer poster, find out about the latest FOCUS and FCAT Explorer projects, and tell us what you think of the Web site.

To find out more about the Just Read, Florida K-12 Leadership Conference, go to <http://www.justreadflorida.com/conference>. ■



ITEM ANALYSIS FOR FCAT EXPLORER AND FOCUS

Every year, as part of an ongoing process to assure quality, the Support Services Team completes item analysis of all reading and math programs in FCAT Explorer and FOCUS.

Item analysis is a process used by a psychometrician (the team's testing and measurement expert) to examine assessment items, which are test question stems and answers. The analysis focuses on the level of difficulty of the item and the extent to which the item discriminates between high and low achieving students.

Item analysis allows the psychometrician to determine which items are performing well based on educational testing standards. The process also helps evaluate students' strengths and weaknesses. ■

“The analysis focuses on the level of difficulty of the item and the extent to which the item discriminates between high and low achieving students.”



School will be out soon, but FCAT Explorer and FOCUS will be available to students and teachers this summer. Encourage your students to use FCAT Explorer during their summer break to help them prepare for the next grade.

Database Renewal

To prepare for the upcoming school year, the Support Services Team needs to renew the FCAT Explorer database. This annual routine service will take place July 27, 2007.

On July 27, sign-in names and passwords of teachers who did not use FCAT Explorer during the 2006-2007 school year will be deleted. Additionally, all student sign-in names, passwords, and performance data will be deleted. Sign-in names and passwords for teachers who have actively used the FCAT Explorer will be retained.

If you'd like to keep records of your students' performance in FCAT Explorer or FOCUS, go to Run Reports in the Teacher's Desk. From there, you can print hardcopies of your students' progress during the 2006-2007 school year. (For more detailed instructions on how to generate reports, see "Run Reports in FCAT Explorer" in the Spring 2007 newsletter).

Re-enrollment

The annual re-enrollment process will begin after the database renewal. Once enrollment is complete, your FCAT Explorer School Administrator will have the sign-in name and password information for students and teachers at your school. Please contact your School Administrator to find out student and teacher sign-in name and password information. You can also check the News and Information sections of FCAT Explorer and FOCUS to see which districts have been re-enrolled and to find your School Administrator.

Your school district office will distribute new sign-in names and passwords as soon as they are available. We thank you for your patience as we prepare the database for the upcoming school year enrollments.

Typically, enrollment is complete within two weeks after school starts. ■