

Your Path to the Classroom: A Guide to the Florida General Knowledge Test

FTCE General Knowledge Test (GK) — Test 082 · A five-step guide from “do I need this?” to test day

Thank you for choosing to become a teacher. Florida needs talented, committed educators, and your decision to pursue this path matters — to the students you will one day teach and to the communities you will serve. The General Knowledge Test is one of the first formal steps on that journey, and this guide walks you through it in five steps: whether you even need to take it, what it looks like, how to find your starting point, how to study for free, and how to register and walk in ready.

Step 1 · Do I Even Need to Take This Test?

Before you spend a dollar on registration or an hour on prep, check your old test scores. Florida accepts qualifying SAT, ACT, GRE, and CLT scores in place of GK subtests. Pull your old score reports from your College Board, ACT, or ETS account — it takes ten minutes and could exempt you from some or all of the exam.

GK Subtest	SAT	ACT	GRE
Essay	560 Evidence-Based Reading & Writing	22 English	4.0 Analytical Writing
English Language Skills	560 Evidence-Based Reading & Writing	22 English	151 Verbal Reasoning
Reading	560 Evidence-Based Reading & Writing	23 Reading	151 Verbal Reasoning
Mathematics	540 Math	22 Math	147 Quantitative Reasoning

The big one: a single SAT Evidence-Based Reading & Writing score of 560 covers three of the four subtests (Essay, English Language Skills, and Reading) — leaving only Math.

Date cutoffs: SAT, ACT, and CLT scores count only from test dates on or after March 1, 2016. GRE scores count only from test dates on or after July 1, 2015. In all cases, your score must have been earned within the 10 years immediately preceding your certificate application. (CLT equivalents also exist: a combined 49 on Verbal Reasoning & Grammar/Writing for the verbal subtests; 20 Quantitative Reasoning for math.)

Other full exemptions: a master’s degree or higher from an accredited institution, a valid standard teaching certificate from another U.S. state, or National Board certification also satisfy the requirement. Details: [FLDOE General Knowledge requirements](#). If any of this might apply to you, confirm with your advisor before registering — there is no reason to prep for a test you have already passed.

Step 2 · Know What You’re Facing

The General Knowledge Test is part of the Florida Teacher Certification Examinations (FTCE). It is a computer-based exam made up of four separately scored subtests. You must pass all four — but you do not have to take them all at once, and if one doesn’t go your way, you only retake that subtest.

Subtest	Format	Time	Passing Score
Essay (825)	1 essay (choice of 2 prompts)	50 min	6 of 8 points*
English Language Skills (826)	~30 multiple choice	40 min	Scaled 200 (~71% correct)
Reading (827)	~30 multiple choice	55 min	Scaled 200 (~75% correct)
Mathematics (828)	~35 multiple choice	100 min	Scaled 200 (~72% correct)

***Heads up on the essay score:** the passing score changed to 6 of 8 points effective January 1, 2025. Many prep books and websites still cite the old 8-of-12 standard — if a resource mentions 8 of 12, its scoring information is out of date.

- **Cost:** \$32.50 per subtest — \$130 for all four. You choose how many to take in one appointment.
- **Where to book:** www.fl.nesinc.com (the official FTCE site). Create an account, select your subtests, then pick a test center, date, and time. Testing is available year-round, including several Miami-area centers.
- **Retakes:** wait 31 calendar days, then retake only the subtest you didn't pass. There is no limit on attempts; you pay the subtest fee each time.
- **Calculator:** for math, you get an on-screen four-function calculator and a formula reference sheet — you may not bring your own. Practice with a basic calculator only, and learn the reference sheet cold: [Mathematics Reference Sheet \(PDF\)](#)

Smart strategy: consider splitting your subtests across two appointments. All four in one sitting is a 4+ hour marathon. Many students take Essay and English Language Skills together first, then Reading and Math after focused preparation.

Step 3 · Find Your Starting Point

Don't register blind, and don't study blind either. Take a free practice test first so you know exactly which subtests — and which skills — need your time.

- **Try the real testing platform first.** Pearson's free tutorials simulate the actual on-screen testing experience and include sample questions, so nothing about the interface surprises you on test day: [multiple-choice tutorial](#) and [essay tutorial](#).
- **Teachers Test Prep** — free full-length practice tests for each subtest with instant grading and a breakdown of your strengths and weaknesses: teacherstestprep.com/FTCE-general-knowledge-practice-tests
- **Mometrix** — additional free practice tests and flashcards: mometrix.com/academy/ftce/general-knowledge-test-gk
- **Official sample questions, essay rubric, and competency blueprint** — the state's free Test Information Guides show you exactly what each subtest covers and how your essay will be scored: fl.nesinc.com/prepPage.asp?test=GK

Step 4 · Study Smart (For Free)

You do not need to buy anything to pass this test. Everything below is free — start at the top.

- **FTCE GK → Khan Academy Roadmap (Enhanced Edition).** Your single best study tool: every official skill on the GK, mapped to a specific free Khan Academy lesson, with the traps to avoid and a 6-week plan. If you've already taken the test, find your weakest competencies on your score report and study exactly those linked lessons — no wasted time. Aim for 80%+ on each unit's practice exercises before moving on. [Open the Roadmap](#)
- **Khan Academy's official Praxis Core courses** — built with ETS, free, and they overlap the GK skill-for-skill. The Roadmap uses these as its backbone: [Math](#) · [Reading](#) · [Writing](#)
- **NavaED on YouTube (Kathleen Jasper)** — hours of free FTCE GK video walkthroughs: math problems solved step by step, essay structure, and reading strategy. Great if you learn best by watching: youtube.com/@NavaED
- **Purdue OWL** — the classic free writing and grammar reference. Use it for grammar rules (English Language Skills) and essay structure: owl.purdue.edu
- **EdReady** — free diagnostic-driven study paths: take the diagnostic and it builds a personalized plan around your gaps: edready.org
- **Barry University Library** — the catalog includes FTCE General Knowledge and subject-area test prep books. Some editions may not be the newest (double-check scoring info against this guide), but as a free resource they are well worth perusing: barry.edu/en/library

For the essay specifically: videos help least. The real preparation is writing 2–3 full essays under the 50-minute clock and scoring them yourself against the official rubric in the Test Information Guide.

Step 5 · Register and Walk In Ready

- **Register when you're ready, not before.** Since passing the multiple-choice subtests requires roughly 71–75% correct, wait until you're consistently scoring 80%+ on practice tests, then book at fl.nesinc.com.
- **If you had accommodations in college, you can have them here too — at no cost.** Extended time, a separate room, and other arrangements are available for documented disabilities. Request them through the FTCE site before you schedule: [Alternative Testing Arrangements](#)
- **What happens after you test:** for multiple-choice subtests, you'll see an unofficial pass/non-pass result on screen before you leave. Official scores arrive within about 4 weeks.
- **If a subtest doesn't go your way:** your score report includes a breakdown of how you did in each competency area. That report is not a verdict — it's a map. Match your weakest competencies to the Roadmap, study those exact skills, wait the 31 days, and retake only that subtest. Bring the report to tutoring and we'll plan your comeback together.

This test measures basic skills — it does not measure your potential as a teacher, your care for students, or the difference you will make in a classroom. Thousands of great Florida teachers needed more than one attempt at a subtest. Prepare well, use the supports around you, and keep going. Your future students are worth it — and so are you.

A Note on Sources

This guide draws on the following sites for fees, score requirements, exemptions, and study resources. All were current as of June 2026 — always confirm details at the official FTCE site before registering.

- **Official / authoritative:** fl.nesinc.com (Pearson FTCE registration, test information guides, competencies and blueprints), fldoe.org (Florida DOE certification rules, including Rule 6A-4.0021, F.A.C.), and [Pearson VUE FTCE tutorials](#).
- **Free study resources:** [Khan Academy](#) (official Praxis Core courses), [NavaED / Kathleen Jasper](#), [Purdue OWL](#), and [EdReady](#).
- **Practice tests:** [Teachers Test Prep](#) and [Mometrix Academy](#).
- **Institutional:** [Barry University Library](#).

Sources: Florida DOE Rule 6A-4.0021, F.A.C.; fl.nesinc.com; fldoe.org. Fees and score requirements current as of June 2026 — always confirm at fl.nesinc.com before registering.