SAMPLE PLAN. "Alex R." is a fictional student. Scores are made up for illustration. Test dates and passing scores are real (see sources on the last page).

Alex R. — Reading Requirement Game Plan

Grade 11 · Started 9th grade in 2024–25 · Goal: meet the graduation reading requirement this school year

1. Where Alex is now

GRADE 10 FAST ELA · SPRING 2026
238
Level 2 · passing is 247 (Level 3)

PSAT/NMSQT R&W · OCT 2026
440
qualifying PSAT score is 470

ALGEBRA 1 EOC
Passed
math requirement already met

Good news first: Alex is close. The FAST gap is 9 scale points, and on the SAT Alex needs about 50 more Reading & Writing points than the PSAT showed. Both are realistic in one school year.

Reading & Writing skill areas (PSAT score bands)

Domain	Band	Status
Information & Ideas	390–430	Priority
Craft & Structure	410–450	Priority
Standard English Conventions	460–500	Quick win
Expression of Ideas	470–510	Quick win

What the data says

- **The writing questions are Alex's fastest path.** Conventions and Expression of Ideas test rules and patterns that can be learned in a few weeks. About half of the SAT Reading & Writing section comes from these two areas.
- **The reading questions need steady practice.** Main idea, word meaning in context, and inference questions improve with short daily reading and a consistent question routine.

2. Alex's options: more than one way to pass

Florida accepts several tests for the reading requirement. Alex only needs to reach the score on **one** of them. For students who started 9th grade between 2023–24 and 2025–26:

Test	Score Alex needs	2026–27 dates
SAT Reading & Writing	490 (from a single test date)	Dec 5, 2026 · Mar 6, May 1, Jun 5, 2027
FAST Grade 10 ELA Retake	247 (Level 3)	Winter: Nov 30, 2026 – Jan 22, 2027 Spring: Mar 29 – Apr 9, 2027
ACT English + Reading	Average of 17.5 (a combined 35 qualifies, e.g., 17 + 18)	Feb 27, Apr 10, Jun 12, 2027
CLT Verbal + Grammar/Writing	39 (two sections added together)	Monthly at-home dates

> **Recommended route: SAT first, with the FAST retake as backup.** The SAT matches the PSAT Alex already took, so the score report tells us exactly what to practice. Alex also takes each FAST retake the school offers, which means up to **five chances** to pass by June instead of one.

3. Test calendar

Date	What happens	Deadline / note
Dec 5, 2026	SAT attempt #1 after 4 weeks of writing-skills practice	Register by Nov 20, 2026
Nov 30 – Jan 22	FAST winter retake (school sets the exact day)	Ask the testing coordinator
Mar 6, 2027	SAT attempt #2: the main target	Register by Feb 19, 2027
Mar 29 – Apr 9	FAST spring retake, if still needed	Ask the testing coordinator
May 1, 2027	SAT attempt #3, if still needed	Register by Apr 16, 2027

Families who qualify for free or reduced-price lunch can often get SAT fee waivers through the school counselor.

4. The plan

About **4 hours a week**: three 30-minute practice sessions, one 90-minute tutoring or small-group session, and four 20-minute reading sessions.

Phase	Focus	Goal
Phase 1 · Quick wins Nov 9 – Dec 4	Sentence boundaries (periods, commas, semicolons), verb and pronoun agreement, and transition words. Ten-question practice sets.	8 of 10 correct on writing sets
Phase 2 · Reading routine Dec 7 – Feb 5	Main idea, words in context, and "what does the text suggest" questions. Use the routine in the box below on every passage.	6 of 10 correct on reading sets
Phase 3 · Test practice Feb 8 – Mar 5	Two full Bluebook practice tests plus timed single sections. Keep reviewing the writing rules weekly.	Practice score 490+ twice

The 4-step routine for every reading question

1. **Read the question first** so you know what to look for.
2. **Read the passage** and put its main point into your own words.
3. **Predict the answer** before you look at the choices.
4. **Cross out** choices that are too extreme, off-topic, or only partly true. Pick the one the text actually supports.

A typical week

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
Practice set 30 min	Reading 20 min	Small group 90 min	Practice set 30 min	Reading 20 min	Practice set 30 min	Reading 20 min ×2

Reading can be anything Alex chooses: articles, sports news, a novel. What matters is reading every few days and summarizing it in one sentence afterward.

5. Free official tools

- **Bluebook** (College Board app): full practice tests that work exactly like the real SAT.
- **Khan Academy Official Digital SAT Prep**: short lessons and practice by skill.
- **SAT Suite Question Bank**: real questions you can filter to easier levels first.

6. Progress tracker

Checkpoint	Date	Score	Goal	Passed?
PSAT R&W (starting point)	Oct 2026	440	—	—
Bluebook practice test 1	Late Nov		460+	
SAT #1 · R&W	Dec 5		490	☐
FAST winter retake	Dec–Jan		247	☐
Bluebook practice tests 2 and 3	Feb		490+	
SAT #2 · R&W	Mar 6		490	☐

Skill log (fill in weekly)

Week of	Skill practiced	# right / # tried	What I'll do differently

> **For parents:** passing any one of these tests counts the same as passing the state test. You'll get a short weekly update showing what Alex practiced and how close the practice scores are to 490. As soon as Alex passes, we stop. No extra sessions are needed.

— Sean Newborn, PasswayPrep

Sources: Passing scores from the Florida Department of Education's graduation requirements table (Rule 6A-1.09422), 2025–26. SAT and ACT dates from the College Board and ACT 2026–27 calendars. FAST retake windows from the FDOE 2026–27 Statewide Assessment Schedule. Districts set exact retake days, and requirements can change; confirm before registering. Sample plan prepared November 2026.