

Performance Levels and Policy Claims

Each performance level of the CMAS assessment has a high level policy claim associated with it. The policy claims give a general idea of what is expected of a student at each level regardless of their grade level. **Elementary and middle school students in the Met and Exceeded Expectation levels are considered on track to being college and career ready; high school students in the top two performance levels are considered ready.** Grade level specific descriptions are included on the Student Performance Report and in the *CMAS and CoAlt Interpretive Guide*.

Performance Levels	CMAS Policy Claims
Exceeded Expectations	Students who demonstrate a distinguished command of the concepts, skills, and practices embodied by the Colorado Academic Standards assessed at their grade level. They are <i>academically well prepared</i> to engage successfully in further studies in this content area.
Met Expectations	Students who demonstrate a strong command of the concepts, skills, and practices embodied by the Colorado Academic Standards assessed at their grade level. They are <i>academically prepared</i> to engage successfully in further studies in this content area.
Approached Expectations	Students who demonstrate a moderate command of the concepts, skills, and practices embodied by the Colorado Academic Standards assessed at their grade level. They will <i>likely need additional academic support</i> to engage successfully in further studies in this content area.
Partially Met Expectations	Students who demonstrate a limited command of the concepts, skills, and practices embodied by the Colorado Academic Standards assessed at their grade level. They will <i>need additional academic support</i> to engage successfully in further studies in this content area.
Did Not Yet Meet Expectations*	Students who do not yet meet academic expectations for the concepts, skills, and practices embodied by the Colorado Academic Standards assessed at their grade level. They will <i>need extensive academic support</i> to engage successfully in further studies in this content area.

Cut Scores

Overall Performance Level

Students taking CMAS assessments are given an overall scale score. Mathematics and ELA overall scale scores range from 650 to 850; science and social studies overall scale scores range from 300 to 900. Educators set cut scores for performance levels based on the specific content that students should be able to engage with at each performance level. The elementary and middle school science and social studies cut scores were then adopted by the State Board of Education in August 2014. Mathematics and English language arts/literacy cut scores were set in 2015. The high school science cut scores were approved by the State Board of Education in April 2016. The range of scale scores at each performance level is provided on the following page.



CMAS Performance Level Cut Scores					
Grade Level	Did Not Yet Meet Expectations	Partially Met Expectations	Approached Expectations	Met Expectations	Exceeded Expectations
Mathematics					
Grade 3	650-699	700-724	725-749	750-789	790-850
Grade 4				750-795	796-850
Grade 5				750-789	790-850
Grade 6				750-787	788-850
Grade 7				750-785	786-850
Grade 8				750-800	801-850
English Language Arts/Literacy					
Grade 3	650-699	700-724	725-479	750-809	810-850
Grade 4				750-789	790-850
Grade 5				750-798	799-850
Grade 6				750-789	790-850
Grade 7				750-784	785-850
Grade 8				750-793	794-850
Colorado Spanish Language Arts					
Grade 3	650-699	700-724	725-479	750-778	779-850
Grade 4				750-771	772-850
Social Studies					
Grade 4		300-556	557-698	699-792	793-900
Grade 7		300-591	592-700	701-769	770-900
Science					
Grade 5		300-545	546-649	650-770	771-900
Grade 8		300-555	556-651	652-784	785-900
High School		300-542	543-672	673-773	774-900

ELA Subscale Performance

The ELA assessment includes a subscore for reading. The reading subscore has the same range and cut score for all grades. There is only one cut score which corresponds to the “Met Expectations” overall performance level.

Reading Subscore	
Scale Range	Cut Score
110-190	150

Science and Social Studies Content Standards Performance Indicators

At the content standards level there are performance indicators based on the overall state performance. These levels are not for accountability use and are not set in relation to the content or the overall performance levels. The cut scores are set using one standard deviation around the mean scale score for the state. They change from year to year. Students within this range have “typical” performance for the state. Students with scores below this range have a “potential relative weakness” in this area and students above the range have a “potential relative strength”.

2019 CMAS Content Standards Performance Indicator Cut Scores				
Grade Level	History / Physical Science	Geography / Life Science	Economics / Earth Systems Science	Civics / Scientific Inquiry and Nature of Science
Social Studies				
Grade 4	461-751	489-741	486-744	449-750
Grade 7	447-720	443-720	451-726	458-722
Science				
Grade 5	475-725	481-722	482-722	479-721
Grade 8	444-715	439-714	440-716	441-718
High School	436-697	447-696	432-701	410-703