

Frequently Asked Questions

Why does my child have to take an assessment anyway?

Both IDEA , the Federal No Child Left Behind Act and Colorado State law require that students with disabilities participate in statewide assessments. The laws also state that students who cannot take the general assessment due to a cognitive disability must be administered an alternate assessment.

How does participation in CSAPA help my child?

The CSAPA provides important information regarding your child's progress in the areas of reading, writing, mathematics and science. This information is helpful in developing your child's IEP and instruction.

Will my child still graduate from high school if they take the CSAPA rather than the CSAP?

Yes, students who take the CSAPA are not penalized in any way. The CSAPA provides important information regarding your child's academic progress.

Will I receive my child's assessment results?

Yes, you will receive a student report that shows your child's performance in each content area. This report has information about your child's level of independence and content knowledge combined by content area

Who can help me understand my child's report?

You can ask your child's teacher or principal for assistance in interpreting test results.

P.A.R.E.N.T.S.

<u>PARTICIPATE</u>	Participate in your child's school learning activities. Studies have shown that parent participation and influence have long-term positive effects on student performance.
<u>ASSIST</u>	Assist the educational process by discussing with your child the importance of being actively engaged with learning activities and working to his or her highest possible potential.
<u>REASSURE</u>	Reassure your child that this assessment measures learning and will be used by teachers to better improve instruction.
<u>ENCOURAGE</u>	Encourage your child to get a good night's rest, not just before the assessment but daily, to receive optimum benefits from educational opportunities.
<u>NUTURE</u>	Nurture to provide opportunities for your child to grow, physically, mentally and emotionally.
<u>TEACH</u>	Teach your child to do his or her best in all settings, not just assessment situations.
<u>SUPPORT</u>	Support your child's continued educational progress by modeling the discipline needed to maintain good work habits.


Contact Information

For more information regarding CSAPA Eligibility:

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For more information regarding CSAPA Administration:

The Unit of Student Assessment
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Parent Brochure

Colorado Student Assessment Program Alternate (CSAPA)

Grades 3-10
Reading, Writing, and
Mathematics

Grades 5, 8 and 10
Science

Colorado Department of
Education
201 East Colfax Ave.
Denver CO 80203



CSAPA PARENT BROCHURE

Colorado Student Assessment Program Alternate (CSAPA)

The CSAPA is a standards based assessment designed specifically for students with significant cognitive disabilities and is meant to provide a picture of student performance relative to the Expanded Benchmarks. Students are assessed in reading, writing and mathematics in grades 3-10 and science in grades 5, 8 and 10.

The Primary purpose of the CSAPA assessment is to determine the level at which Colorado students are meeting the Expanded Benchmarks. The information gained from the assessment also provide teachers with information that can be used for instructional purposes.

CSAPA is administered to students individually. The assessment is administered to the student by the teacher who knows the student best in order to ensure that the student performs his or her best and to ensure that the appropriate expanded accommodations are in place

For CSAPA the teacher rates each student's response on two data points. The first data point collected is how the student responded to an item; correct, incorrect, other or no response. The second data point gathered is the student's level of independence; independent, partial independence, limited independence and no response. The levels of independence are explained on the student report sent to parents. Both data points provide information on a student's performance that can help guide instruction and IEP decisions.

Eligibility for CSAPA

A student who is eligible for CSAPA must meet all of the following criteria in order to qualify:

1. The student must have a significant cognitive disability.
AND
2. The student's cognitive disability presents challenges to access the content on CSAP even with allowable accommodations.
AND
3. The nature of the student's cognitive disability must be noted on the student's IEP.
AND
4. The student requires the use of a modified general curriculum or is working toward alternate achievement standards that are aligned with the Colorado State Content Standards.
AND
5. The IEP team considered participation on CSAP with allowable accommodations before deciding on eligibility for CSAPA.
AND
6. The IEP team considered all elements in the Eligibility Packet.

For more information and to view the entire CSAPA Eligibility document go to:
<http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/download/pdf/>

Expanded Benchmarks

Expanded Benchmarks are an interpretation of The Colorado Model Content Standards at the most foundational level, providing a framework for students with significant disabilities to access the general curriculum. The Expanded Benchmarks are used in developing CSAPA test items.

Teachers use the Expanded Benchmarks to guide them in addressing the instructional needs of each student and in developing IEP goals and objectives.

Expanded Accommodations

Expanded Accommodations are what the student and/or teacher uses to provide greater access to assessment items and instruction to facilitate student responses. For CSAPA many accommodations are built into the assessment; for example the assessment is administered individually and can be done over several days. However, in order for some students to access the assessment teachers may need to make changes to the student materials. For example, a teacher may need to provide a student with real objects or enlarge the picture symbols. For more information regarding Expanded Accommodations and to view the list of acceptable expanded accommodations for CSAPA please see Section 9 of the Colorado Accommodations Manual:

<http://cde.state.co.us/cdeassess/publications.html>