Superintendents/Principals to Parents

*Use this entire article or just portions of it to communicate about this year’s state assessments and score reports.*

**Score reports are coming home; how to interpret the results this year**

Parents will soon receive score reports that detail how their students performed on last spring’s statewide Colorado Measures of Academic Success tests in English language arts, math and science.

CMAS is the only common measurement of students’ learning across Colorado. Along with classroom grades and teacher feedback, they let you know how well your students are doing in meeting the grade-level expectations in the Colorado Academic Standards.

When you review your child’s score report, it is important to remember the unique learning experiences encountered by your child last year and understand that test results may have been affected. Our teachers went to extraordinary lengths to support students last year and provide consistency and continuity of learning, but school was still disrupted and reduced for some students due to periodic quarantining. Our students also demonstrated incredible resilience as they adapted to changing learning models, shifting from in-person to remote to hybrid instruction and back again as needed. As a result, some content covered during a typical year may have been adjusted or reduced.

Our year looked different, but the content covered by the state assessments did not change. This consistency is valuable because despite the challenges of last year, we want all of our students to meet or exceed the grade-level expectations in the state standards and graduate ready for college and career. The score report you will receive will help identify your student’s strengths and weaknesses within each content area.

The most important information on your child’s CMAS score report is the performance level and score information that show your child’s learning of the standards and whether they are on track for their next grade level or may need some additional support to engage successfully in their new classrooms. These indicators are at the top of Page 1 of the report. Because the scale scores and performance levels retain the same meaning from previous years, results can continue to provide a helpful temperature check about where your child is excelling as well as where they may need more support.

It is also important to know that when the number of participating students met or exceeded the minimum number needed for reporting, your student’s report also will include summary information about performance at the school, district and state levels. Participation rates should be carefully considered when reviewing this aggregated data as participation rates may be too low in some cases to make meaningful comparisons to performance at the school or district levels.

You can use information from the reports as a starting point for discussions with your child’s teacher about what additional supports may be available to help your child succeed as well as where to focus learning time at home.

The Colorado Department of Education created tools to help parents understand the tests and what to expect for the school year. Information in both English and Spanish include FAQs about the tests, a guide to understanding the score reports and explainers about the SAT and PSAT. All of the resources can be found at <http://www.cde.state.co.us/communications/resourcesforparents>.