Superintendents/Principals to Parents

*Use this entire article or just portions of it to communicate about the spring state assessments.*

**State assessments matter to families and to our school**

Dear parents,

It is hard to believe the school year is more than half over, and we are now preparing for the annual send-of-the-year state assessments to begin.

Every year, state assessments are given in the springtime to check how all students are doing with mastering the expectations for their grades.

The Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS) and PSAT/SAT tests are the only common measuring tools for Colorado students. CMAS measures how well students meet grade-level expectations in the Colorado Academic Standards and whether they are on track for the next grade level.

Test data provide valuable information to teachers and district and state officials. But, more importantly, they provide critical information to families.

Here is what you can learn from the state assessments:

* The assessments allow your child to show what they have been learning and practicing in their classroom and how well they connect with classroom instruction.
* They let you know how well our school is teaching all students.
* They provide you and other families in our community with information about how our schools are meeting the needs of all students.

 CMAS results let you check your child’s progress toward mastering the academic standards’ grade-level expectations.

**This is how assessments are used by our school and district:**

* They provide critical information to the district and state about how well all students in our school are doing, so we can access support if needed.
* They allow teachers and principals to see any differences between groups of students and make improvements to instruction so that all students can succeed.
* They highlight achievement gaps, so steps can be taken to ensure all students are supported in making meaningful progress.

CMAS assessments are taken by students in the third through eighth grades in English language arts and math. Students in grades five, eight and 11 take a CMAS science assessment. The tests will be administered in [insert district/school] on [insert scheduled day]. Colorado practice resources are publicly available at <https://coassessments.com/practice-resources/> to help familiarize students, educators, and the public with the CMAS assessments.

Students in the ninth and 10th grades will take the PSAT and 11th graders will take the SAT college entrance exams on selected dates from April 15 through April 26. Here is a snapshot of what to expect:

