

Colorado Measures of Academic Success

Just the Facts about Assessments



COLORADO
Department of Education

A resource for parents and educator

www.cde.state.co.us







CMAS, PSAT and ACT – What you need to know about state tests in 2016

In a few weeks, Colorado students from third to ninth grade will begin taking the Colorado Measures of Academic Success tests, assessments aligned to the Colorado Academic Standards. The goal of the tests is to measure students' progress at the end of the year in English language arts, mathematics, science and social studies. The assessments are designed to be administered online with a variety of interactive questions to gauge critical thinking skills and how the students solve problems – key skills for the 21st century.

How many sections will students take?

All students from third through ninth grade will take tests in English language arts and math. Students in the fourth and seventh grade will take tests in social studies. Students in grades five, eight and 11 will take tests in science. A college preparatory exam, the PSAT, will be administered for 10th graders. And 11th graders will take the college entrance exam, the ACT.

What tests will students take?

	ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS	Grades 3 through 9		SCIENCE	Grades 5, 8 and 11
	MATH	Grades 3 through 9		PSAT	Grade 10
	SOCIAL STUDIES	Grades 4 and 7 To be done on a sampling basis with schools participating once every three years		ACT	Grade 11

How long and how much time will students have for each section?

Tests are broken down into individual sessions that last between 60 and about 100 minutes. [The times vary per grade level.](#)

How much time will tests take?

2015-16 STATE TESTING HOURS



ENGLISH
LANGUAGE
ARTS*



MATH*



SOCIAL
STUDIES



SCIENCE



PSAT



ACT

TOTAL
HOURS

	ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS*	MATH*	SOCIAL STUDIES	SCIENCE	PSAT	ACT	TOTAL HOURS
Grade 3	4.25	4	-	-	-	-	8.25
Grade 4	4.5	4	4	-	-	-	12.5
Grade 5	4.5	4	-	4	-	-	12.5
Grade 6	5.16	4	-	-	-	-	9.16
Grade 7	5.16	4	4	-	-	-	13.16
Grade 8	5.16	4	-	4	-	-	13.16
Grade 9	5.16	4.5	-	-	-	-	9.66
Grade 10	-	-	-	-	2.75	-	2.75
Grade 11	-	-	-	3	-	2.95	2.95

Tests are broken down into individual sessions lasting between 60 and about 100 minutes

Some Colorado students will participate in PARCC's 90- to 110-minute field test of questions that could be used in future years.

**PARCC-developed tests in English language arts and math are 90 minutes shorter this year.*

When will the tests be given?

CMAS tests in science, social studies, English language arts and math will be administered in one window from April 11-29. However, the Colorado Department of Education will allow districts to begin testing one to four weeks early if they cannot complete testing within the allotted timeframe due to limitations on the number of computers or other devices needed for testing. Colorado 10th-graders will take the PSAT tests this year on April 29 or April 30. The state's 11th-graders will take the ACT on April 19.

When will results be available?

The English language arts and math scores are expected to be available to the schools before the beginning of the next school year. Science and social studies scores will be available in July. Parents and students will likely see the test results at the beginning of the 2016-17 school year. ACT and PSAT results are expected to be delivered directly to students three to eight weeks after taking the tests.

How will results be used?

State and district level administrators will use the test results as a measurement to determine how well schools are performing to the Colorado Academic Standards. Instructors will use the results to determine strengths and weaknesses of students' understanding of the standards and to determine the kinds of interventions that may be necessary. Results from this year's tests also may be a factor in how teachers are evaluated. More on that process [can be found here](#).

Where can I learn more?

- www.cde.state.co.us/communications/tools
- www.cde.state.co.us/communications