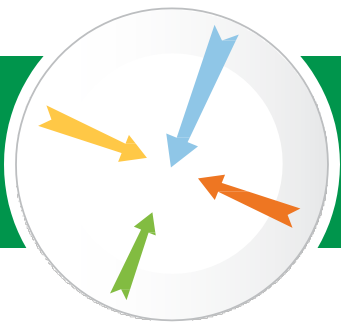


## COLORADO MEASURES OF ACADEMIC SUCCESS

## What to Expect for the 2018-2019 School Year



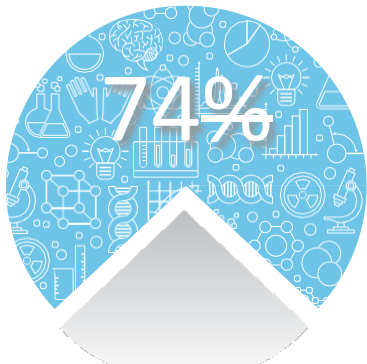
**COLORADO**  
Department of Education

## Overview

The Colorado Academic Standards set statewide expectations of what students should know and be able to do at the end of each grade. The standards incorporate future skills and essential knowledge that the next generation will need to be successful in college and careers. Colorado's statewide end-of-year assessments are aligned with the standards and help us determine if students have mastered grade-level expectations by the year's end. The standards set clear, consistent guidelines for what students should know

and be able to do at each grade level across 10 subject areas, including English language arts, math, science and social studies. The rigorous standards were designed by educators and researchers, with significant input from higher education and workforce leaders, to help students prepare for life after high school. The standards were updated in 2018 to ensure their continued relevancy. Districts will transition to the revised standards over the next several years with full implementation expected in the 2020-21 school year.

## The Need for Rigorous Standards



In 2020, 74% of all jobs in Colorado

**3 MILLION JOBS**

**WILL REQUIRE**

**EDUCATION BEYOND HIGH SCHOOL**

### Key Components of the Standards

Across all 10 content areas, the standards are created to ensure students are prepared for college and careers after high school.

#### RIGOR

Students use inquiry, critical thinking and creative processes to solve problems

#### RELEVANCY

Students engage in real world scenarios that require the application and transfer of concepts and skills

#### DISCIPLINARY LITERACY

Students learn to speak, think, work and argue like mathematicians, artists, scientists, authors and historians

## Assessments Align with Rigorous Standards

To accurately measure student mastery of these skills and expectations, Colorado assessments align with the Colorado Academic Standards. Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS) assessments are the state's common measurement tool of student progress at the end of the school year in English language arts, math, science and social studies for students in grades three

through eight, as well as for science in grade 11. Designed to be administered online, the tests feature a variety of interactive questions that are engaging and aligned with 21st century teaching and learning practices. The standards-aligned assessments help educators and parents know how their students are performing.

## Why Do We Need Statewide Assessments?

Statewide assessments provide valuable information to students, parents, districts and taxpayers about overall academic performance. Summative, end-of-the-year assessments provide point-in-time snapshots of what students know and can do in core academic areas. They help students, families and educators know how

students are performing on standards and compared to their peers across the state. They also help determine how they are growing over time. In addition, they help provide information on how well the state's education system is meeting the goals of helping every child attain academic proficiency.

## College Board's High School Assessments

Colorado students in the ninth and 10th grade take the PSAT tests, which are precursors to the SAT that is taken by 11th graders. The Khan Academy offers voluntary, optional and free practice resources for the PSAT and SAT, including paper tests, a daily practice app and a partnership with the Boys & Girls Club. Additionally, students can get connections to

scholarship providers, access to online college and career planning materials and feedback to support opportunities for rigorous coursework.

## 2018-19 Tests

In the 2018-19 school year, CMAS testing will take place from April 8 – 26. However, the Colorado Department of Education will allow districts to begin testing online earlier in the content areas of science and social studies for high school and English language arts and math for all grades if they cannot complete testing within the allotted timeframe due to limitations on the number of computers or other devices needed for testing. The maximum test window for science and social studies is three weeks and for English language arts and math is five weeks.

### COLORADO STATE ASSESSMENT 2018-2019 CALENDAR

#### AUGUST 2018

CMAS English language arts, math, science and social studies, PSAT, and SAT 2018 results publicly released

#### APRIL 8 – 26, 2019

Official CMAS English language arts, math, science and social studies administration window

#### APRIL 9, 10, 11 2019

PSAT administered to ninth- and 10th-grade students

#### APRIL 9, 2019

SAT administered to 11th-grade students

#### SUMMER 2019

2019 Results for CMAS English language arts, math, science and social studies, as well as PSAT and SAT available to schools and districts

## Which Tests Will Students Take?

**GRADES  
3 THROUGH 8**



**ENGLISH  
LANGUAGE  
ARTS/LITERACY**



**MATH**

**GRADES  
4, 7  
AND 11**



**SOCIAL  
STUDIES**

(sampling about  
one-third of schools  
participating)

**GRADES  
5, 8 AND 11**



**SCIENCE**

**GRADES  
9 AND 10**



**PSAT**

**GRADE  
11**



**SAT**

## Why Are Statewide Tests Important?

CMAS tests are the only common measuring tool for students in grades 3 through 8 in Colorado and the PSAT and SAT, along with CMAS science and social studies, are the only common tests taken by high school students. Participation is important because results help students, parents, schools and districts understand whether students have mastered the content they need to know by the end of the school year and are on track to be ready for college or career after graduation. State law requires local school

boards to develop a policy allowing parents to excuse their students from participating in one or more state assessments. According to the law, districts cannot impose negative consequences on students who are excused from taking an assessment by their parents. Likewise, districts cannot impose burdens on students to discourage them from participating in an assessment, and they must offer all students who are excused from testing the opportunity to participate in celebrations or incentives related to the assessment.

## How Will State Tests Be Used?

Parents should know whether their children are gaining the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in today's complex world. CMAS, PSAT and SAT serve as Colorado's only common measurements for students, helping teachers and parents understand whether students have mastered the content they need to know by the end of each school year in order to be on track for college and career success. Parents can use test scores to compare how their students and schools are doing to other students and schools across the district and the state.

Schools and districts can use test results to make improvements to instruction or to develop additional support and enrichment for students who need more help mastering the standards.

Results from the 2018-19 school year will be used for school and district accreditation ratings in 2019 and for educator evaluations in the 2019-20 school year. Even after the scores become part of accountability measures, they will not serve as the sole measurement for schools and teachers – other factors will still apply.

## When Will Results Be Publicly Available

Student-level CMAS results from the spring assessments are expected to be available to districts in June. School, district- and state-level summary

results of students' tests in English language arts, math, science, social studies, PSAT and SAT will be released to the public in August.