Superintendents/Principals to Parents

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

**State Assessments Matter to Families and to our School**

Dear parents,

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

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

The Colorado Measures of Academic Success tests and PSAT/SAT are the only common measuring tools for Colorado students. The tests measure how well students are meeting grade-level expectations laid out 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 statewide assessments:

* The assessments allow your child to show what they have been learning and practicing in their classroom and how well they are connecting 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.

They 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 on 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 gaps in achievement, 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 grade 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].

Students in the ninth and 10th grade will take the PSAT on April 12, April 13 or April 14. And 11th-graders will take the SAT college entrance exam on April 12. Here is a snapshot of what to expect:

