

## Performance Levels and Policy Claims

Each performance level of the CMAS assessment has a high-level policy claim associated with it. The policy claims give a general idea of what is expected of a student at each level regardless of their grade level. **Students in the Met and Exceeded Expectation levels are considered on track to being college and career ready; high school students in the top two performance levels are considered ready.** Grade level specific descriptions are included on the Student Performance Report and in the *CMAS and CoAlt Interpretive Guide*.

Performance Levels	CMAS Policy Claims
<b>Exceeded Expectations</b>	Students who demonstrate a distinguished command of the concepts, skills, and practices embodied by the Colorado Academic Standards assessed at their grade level. They are <i>academically well prepared</i> to engage successfully in further studies in this content area.
<b>Met Expectations</b>	Students who demonstrate a strong command of the concepts, skills, and practices embodied by the Colorado Academic Standards assessed at their grade level. They are <i>academically prepared</i> to engage successfully in further studies in this content area.
<b>Approached Expectations</b>	Students who demonstrate a moderate command of the concepts, skills, and practices embodied by the Colorado Academic Standards assessed at their grade level. They will <i>likely need additional academic support</i> to engage successfully in further studies in this content area.
<b>Partially Met Expectations</b>	Students who demonstrate a limited command of the concepts, skills, and practices embodied by the Colorado Academic Standards assessed at their grade level. They will <i>need additional academic support</i> to engage successfully in further studies in this content area.
<b>Did Not Yet Meet Expectations</b>	Students who do not yet meet academic expectations for the concepts, skills, and practices embodied by the Colorado Academic Standards assessed at their grade level. They will <i>need extensive academic support</i> to engage successfully in further studies in this content area.

## Cut Scores

### Overall Performance Level

Students taking CMAS assessments are given an overall scale score. Overall scale scores range from 650 to 850. Educators set cut scores for performance levels based on the specific content that students should be able to engage with at each performance level. Science cut scores were set and adopted by the State Board of Education in 2022, while math and ELA/CSLA cut scores were set in 2015. The range of scale scores at each performance level is provided on the following page.



**CMAS Performance Level Cut Scores**

**Mathematics**

Grade Level	Did Not Yet Meet Expectations	Partially Met Expectations	Approached Expectations	Met Expectations	Exceeded Expectations
Grade 3	650-699	700-724	725-749	750-789	790-850
Grade 4				750-795	796-850
Grade 5				750-789	790-850
Grade 6				750-787	788-850
Grade 7				750-785	786-850
Grade 8				750-800	801-850

**English Language Arts**

Grade Level	Did Not Yet Meet Expectations	Partially Met Expectations	Approached Expectations	Met Expectations	Exceeded Expectations
Grade 3	650-699	700-724	725-749	750-809	810-850
Grade 4				750-789	790-850
Grade 5				750-798	799-850
Grade 6				750-789	790-850
Grade 7				750-784	785-850
Grade 8				750-793	794-850

**Colorado Spanish Language Arts**

Grade Level	Did Not Yet Meet Expectations	Partially Met Expectations	Approached Expectations	Met Expectations	Exceeded Expectations
Grade 3	650-699	700-724	725-749	750-778	779-850
Grade 4				750-771	772-850

**Science**

Grade Level	Did Not Yet Meet Expectations	Partially Met Expectations	Approached Expectations	Met Expectations	Exceeded Expectations
Grade 5		650-724	725-749	750-788	789-850
Grade 8				750-796	797-850
Grade 11				750-786	787-850

**ELA/CSLA Subscale Performance**

The ELA/CSLA assessment includes a subscore for reading. The reading subscore has the same range and cut score for all grades. There is only one cut score which corresponds to the “Met Expectations” overall performance level.

**Reading Subscore**

Scale Range	Cut Score
110-190	150

**Science Content Standards Performance Indicators**

At the content standards level there are performance indicators based on the overall state performance. These levels are not for accountability use and are not set in relation to the content or overall performance levels. The cut scores are set using one standard deviation around the mean scale score for the state. They change from year to year. Students within this range have “average” performance compared to the state. Students with scores below this range scored “lower than average” in this area and students above the range scored “higher than average”.

**2025 CMAS Content Standards Performance Indicator Cut Scores**

Grade Level	Physical Science	Life Science	Earth and Space Science	Science and Engineering Practices
Grade 5	450-522	444-524	448-522	451-520
Grade 8	448-519	441-520	435-521	448-518
Grade 11	441-511	443-511	433-513	446-509