

Colorado Measures of Academic Success Grade 4 Social Studies Performance Level Descriptors (PLDs)

Students demonstrate mastery of social studies concepts and 21st century skills aligned to the Colorado Academic Standards at various performance levels. The performance level descriptors are organized in a manner that assumes students demonstrating higher levels of command have mastered the concepts and skills within the lower levels. For example, a student at moderate command also masters the concepts and skills of limited command.

Students who Exceeded Expectations demonstrated distinguished command of the Colorado Academic Standards and can typically

- analyze primary source documents and connect the various eras and events in Colorado history to events in U.S. and World History;
- use geographic tools to investigate and analyze settlement patterns, how people adapt to and modify the physical environment, and how places in Colorado have changed over time;
- analyze opportunity costs and ways to reduce financial risk to make financial decisions; and
- analyze multiple perspectives on an issue and provide solutions.

Student who Met Expectations demonstrated strong command of the Colorado Academic Standards and can typically

- explain cause-and-effect relationships present in Colorado history using historical tools such as organizing and sequencing events and reading primary sources;
- create and investigate questions about Colorado in relation to other places and examine the connections between the physical environment and human activities such as migration;
- explain how the natural, human, and capital resources of Colorado have influenced the types of goods and services provided;
- analyze opportunity costs and risks to make financial decisions;
- compare arguments for both sides of a public policy debate; and
- explain the origins, structure, and functions of the Colorado government and its relationship with local and federal governments.

Student who Approached Expectations demonstrated moderate command of the Colorado Academic Standards and can typically

- describe how the people and cultures who have lived in Colorado have interacted with each other and have affected the development of Colorado;
- describe how Colorado's political structure developed, including the Colorado Constitution and the relationship between state and national government;
- compare the physical geography of Colorado with that of neighboring states and describe how places in Colorado are connected by technology and the movement of goods and services;
- identify and define types of economic incentives, choices, opportunity costs, and risks that individuals face;
- connect goods and services produced throughout Colorado's history to economic incentives; and
- provide examples of civic and political issues faced by the state.

Students who Partially Met Expectations demonstrated limited command of the Colorado Academic Standards and can typically

- recognize that major political and cultural groups have affected the development of Colorado;
- use maps, grids, and other geographic tools to answer questions about Colorado;
- describe various technological developments, including those that affect Colorado industries;
- identify goods and services produced in Colorado; and
- identify the structure and functions of the Colorado government and the services it provides.