



Performance Levels and Policy Claims

Each Performance Level of the CMAS assessment has a high level policy claim associated with it. This policy claim gives a general idea of what is expected of a student at each level regardless of their grade level. **Elementary and middle school 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 Interpretive Guide.

Performance Levels*	CMAS Policy Claims
Exceeded Expectations	Students performing at this level demonstrate a distinguished command of the concepts, skills, and practices embodied by the Colorado Academic Standards for Science or Social Studies assessed at their grade level. They are <i>academically well prepared</i> to engage successfully in further studies in this content area.
Met Expectations	Students performing at this level demonstrate a strong command of the concepts, skills, and practices embodied by the Colorado Academic Standards for Science or Social Studies assessed at their grade level. They are <i>academically prepared</i> to engage successfully in further studies in this content area.
Approached Expectations	Students performing at this level demonstrate a moderate command of the concepts, skills, and practices embodied by the Colorado Academic Standards for Science or Social Studies assessed at their grade level. They will <i>likely need academic support</i> to engage successfully in further studies in this content area.
Partially Met Expectations	Students performing at this level demonstrate a limited command of the concepts, skills, and practices embodied by the Colorado Academic Standards for Science or Social Studies assessed at their grade level. They will <i>likely need extensive academic support</i> to engage successfully in further studies in this content area.

Cut Scores

Overall Performance Level

Students taking the CMAS science and social studies assessments are given an overall scale score that ranges from 300-900. Colorado educators set cut scores for performance levels based on the specific content that students should be able to engage with at each Performance Level. The elementary and middle school cut scores were then adopted by the State Board of Education in August 2014; the high school cut scores were approved in April 2016. The range of scale scores at each performance level is provided below.

CMAS Performance Level Cut Scores				
Grade Level	Partially Met Expectations	Approached Expectations	Met Expectations	Exceeded Expectations
Social Studies				
Grade 4	300-556	557-698	699-792	793-900
Grade 7	300-591	592-700	701-769	770-900
Science				
Grade 5	300-545	546-649	650-770	771-900
Grade 8	300-555	556-651	652-784	785-900
High School	300-542	543-672	673-773	774-900

*Performance Level names updated in 2015-16 to be more closely aligned to CMAS ELA and Math Performance Levels.



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 the Overall Performance Levels. The cut scores are set using one standard deviation around the mean scale score for the state. They will change from year to year. Students within this range have “Typical” performance for the state. Students with scores below this range have a “Potential Relative Weakness” in this area and students above the range have a “Potential Relative Strength”.

2017 CMAS Content Standards Performance Indicators Cut Scores				
Grade Level	History / Physical Science	Geography / Life Science	Economics / Earth Systems Science	Civics / Scientific Inquiry and Nature of Science
Social Studies				
Grade 4	481-743	486-748	482-746	461-744
Grade 7	466-726	461-728	443-732	436-729
Science				
Grade 5	471-720	480-718	480-717	478-716
Grade 8	444-710	438-710	446-708	446-712
High School	458-710	467-708	463-711	452-713

2016 CMAS Content Standards Performance Indicators Cut Scores				
Grade Level	History / Physical Science	Geography / Life Science	Economics / Earth Systems Science	Civics / Scientific Inquiry and Nature of Science
Social Studies				
Grade 4	477-742	481-747	482-741	462-745
Grade 7	475-726	469-728	465-731	466-725
Science				
Grade 5	468-723	477-718	475-718	471-717
Grade 8	451-712	448-711	459-712	452-714
High School	465-711	463-712	469-711	453-716

2015 CMAS Content Standards Performance Indicators Cut Scores				
Grade Level	History / Physical Science	Geography / Life Science	Economics / Earth Systems Science	Civics / Scientific Inquiry and Nature of Science
Social Studies				
Grade 4	470-736	472-738	465-742	470-737
Grade 7	478-720	480-721	463-735	478-723
Science				
Grade 5	471-721	485-716	483-717	482-716
Grade 8	463-705	461-707	463-707	460-709