



**COLORADO**  
Department of Education  
Commissioner of Education

201 East Colfax Avenue  
Denver, CO 80203-1799

August 1, 2016

Dear Superintendents,

It was great to see so many of you last week at the CASE conference! I hope that some of you had some rest and relaxation over the summer. I know it seems like there is no down-time anymore!

Last week at CASE many of you had questions about the upcoming assessment score release. Below is a very detailed email sent to your district assessment coordinators about the release of CMAS scores, growth results and preliminary school and district performance frameworks.

You will also see much of this information in the monthly [CDE Update](#) which came out today. I encourage you to read the Update each month for important news and deadlines. This publication consolidates much of the information that we would otherwise send to you piece by piece. For example, in addition to important information about the CMAS release and accountability, this month's Update also includes information about ESSA implementation and a link to CDE's comments on the USDE's draft rules.

Even though this is the second year we've reported our math and English language arts assessment results, communicating about these tests with parents and community members will still be our collective challenge. I'll reach out to you next week with some thoughts to help frame your discussions. In the meantime, we've prepared some [sample materials](#) to help you communicate with parents about their child's score report and what to expect for assessments this year.

As always, I welcome your questions or feedback. Please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Katy Anthes, Ph.D.  
Interim Commissioner



**From:** Carey, Jasmine [[mailto:Carey\\_J@cde.state.co.us](mailto:Carey_J@cde.state.co.us)]  
**Sent:** Friday, July 29, 2016 3:55 PM  
**To:** DAC  
**Subject:** \*DAC\* - Spring 2016 CMAS PARCC and CSLA Final Student Level Data Files Available and Additional Important CMAS Results and Reporting Information

**Date:** July 29, 2016

**Subject:** \*DAC\* - Spring 2016 CMAS PARCC and CSLA Final Student Level Data Files Available and Additional Important CMAS Results and Reporting Information

Dear District Assessment Coordinators,

This message includes CMAS results and reporting information related to the following topics:

- Final CMAS PARCC individual student level files
- CMAS results release talking points
- Embargo information
- Continuous district and school coding issues
- CMAS results resources

### **Final CMAS PARCC Individual Student Level Files**

The final CMAS PARCC ELA and math individual student level files were made available to districts on PearsonAccess<sup>next</sup> today, July 29<sup>th</sup>

### **CMAS Results Release Talking Points**

Now that we are in the second year of our new CMAS PARCC assessments and have resumed school and district accountability, we know that there are a lot of questions around the timing of the data releases. With the beginning of the new school year, we know that you are also getting a lot of these questions from your staff, so we wanted to provide some talking points for districts.

### **Overall Priority**

- Throughout the data releases for assessment, growth and accountability, CDE is prioritizing accurate, comparable and useable data. This can sometimes lead to delays from expected releases, but CDE believes that it is more important to ensure validated data is released the first time. We appreciate your patience with any potential delays so that we can have accurate and complete data available for your use.

### **Assessment Results**

- CMAS Science and Social Studies
  - Student level results, school and district summary results are all available to districts on PearsonAccess<sup>next</sup> now. This includes the item analysis report.
  - State results will be released at 10 a.m. on August 11<sup>th</sup> at the State Board of Education meeting
  - Overall school and district science results will be posted on the web on August 11<sup>th</sup>
- CMAS PARCC ELA and Math
  - **FINAL student level results were made available on PearsonAccess<sup>next</sup> today, July 29<sup>th</sup>**
  - School and district summary results will be released to districts under embargo in mid-August
  - State level results will be released on August 11<sup>th</sup> at the State Board of Education meeting
  - Overall school and district summary results are scheduled to be released publicly September 1<sup>st</sup>
- Colorado Spanish Language Arts (CSLA)
  - **Student level results were made available on PearsonAccess<sup>next</sup> today, July 29<sup>th</sup>**
  - School and district summary results will be released to districts in mid-August
  - State level results will be released on August 11<sup>th</sup>



- Overall school and district summary results will be released publicly September 1<sup>st</sup>

### **Growth Results**

- CMAS PARCC ELA and Math
  - Now that the CMAS PARCC ELA and Math student level scores and demographic data are finalized and validated, CDE will begin to calculate the growth percentiles
  - The calculated growth percentile results will be reviewed with the Technical Advisory Panel for Longitudinal Growth (TAP)
  - Once CDE and the TAP determine that the growth results are accurate and valid, results will be released to districts (planning for beginning to mid-September)
- ACCESS Results
  - Based on the preliminary growth percentile calculations, CDE and the TAP noticed differences in the growth percentiles based upon whether students took the online or paper versions of ACCESS
  - CDE and the TAP have been brainstorming and analyzing options for ensuring that students with comparable language proficiency receive comparable growth scores
  - Final decisions are being made around this and growth results are planned for release by mid-September

### **Preliminary School and District Performance Frameworks**

- As the assessment and growth data are required for the calculations of the School and District Performance Frameworks, the release date of the preliminary frameworks is based on the timelines above.
- CDE is planning to release the preliminary frameworks by the end of September or beginning of October, but earlier if possible.
- Again, the goal is to ensure we have accurate preliminary performance frameworks released and that may take a little more time than expected.
- The request to reconsider deadlines will be adjusted based on the release of the performance frameworks.

### **Embargo Information**

All CMAS and CoAlt results (including science, social studies, English language arts and mathematics) are embargoed and must not be publicly disseminated, distributed or published by any means prior to August 11<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m.; however, districts and schools may use aggregated and individual student level results internally for informational and planning purposes before that time. **CMAS: PARCC ELA and mathematics school and district level results will NOT be part of the public release and will remain embargoed until September 1<sup>st</sup>.** The following assessment results will be released publicly as of **August 11<sup>th</sup>**:

- State level overall and subgroup CMAS and CoAlt results (including science, social studies, English language arts and mathematics)
- District and school level overall CMAS and CoAlt science results
- Colorado ACT State, district, and school level summary results
- Colorado PSAT State, district, and school level summary results

### **Continuous in District and School Coding issues**

During the review of continuous enrollment data submitted by districts for the state assessments, CDE discovered coding irregularities. This year's continuous in district and school fields included definition revisions that do not appear to have been accurately applied by all districts. CDE has recalculated these data fields for each district so that they align with the October Count data submission. Next Monday, districts will be provided with this revised data and additional information. Districts are requested to provide a response to CDE by August 5<sup>th</sup>. **Please note that this data issue only impacts the continuously enrolled accountability fields which do not impact any of the results or reports distributed to districts by Pearson.**

### **CMAS Results Resources**

As districts and schools prepare to publicly release results and help their communities make sense of CMAS scores, a variety of resources have been developed to support this effort.



## Score Interpretation Trainings

CDE will hold two live score interpretation trainings for the CMAS assessments in August. These sessions will be held virtually on **August 8<sup>th</sup>** and **August 15<sup>th</sup>**. Specific details about these trainings will be distributed to DACs in the near future. After the live sessions, a recorded training will also be available on CDE's website for those who cannot attend the live sessions.

## Score Interpretation Guides

CMAS PARCC English language arts and math:

Available at <http://www.cde.state.co.us/assessment/emas-englishmath-dataandresults>

- 2016 Score Report Interpretation Guide
- 2016 Score Report Interpretation Guide for Parents – English
- 2016 Score Report Interpretation Guide for Parents – Spanish (coming soon)

CMAS Science and Social Studies:

Available at <http://www.cde.state.co.us/assessment/newassess-sum>

- 2016 Score Report Interpretation Guide
- 2016 Score Report Interpretation Guide for Parents – Spanish
- Translated Individual Student Report Shells
  - Translated report shells are available in Spanish
    - CMAS - <http://avocet.pearson.com/CO/Home#15711>
    - CoAlt - <http://avocet.pearson.com/CO/Home#15712>

CSLA:

Will be available at <http://www.cde.state.co.us/assessment/csla>

- 2016 Score Report Interpretation Guide - coming soon

## Communication Toolkit

Communication tools that can be used by district leadership to inform their staffs and communities about the CMAS assessments will be available on CDE's website next week. Among other tools, the following resources will be available at <http://www.cde.state.co.us/assessment/resources>:

- 2016-2017 CMAS Fact sheet
- A parent's guide to understanding the CMAS score reports
- CMAS score report support document
- CMAS at a glance document

## Science and Social Studies Performance Level Names

This year, CMAS science and social studies performance level names were updated to align with CMAS ELA and math (PARCC) names, and CoAlt science and social studies performance level names were updated to align with CMAS ELA and math (DLM) names. Names were updated for ease of interpretation across content areas; however, the cut scores for and performance expectations of these performance levels have not changed from previous administration years. A document describing these changes for CMAS science and social studies is available at the following location: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/assessment/emasplpc>.

