Superintendents/Principals to Parents

*Use this entire letter, or tailor it to address your local context, and distribute it with your CMAS score reports.*

*Dear* parents,

Enclosed are your child’s score reports that detail how they performed on last spring’s statewide assessments, including CMAS tests in English language arts and math. Some of you also have reports that show the results from CMAS assessments in science and social studies.

As students advance in their learning throughout the school year, we use various tests to provide academic check-ins that can provide us feedback on student progress. In the spring Colorado students take summative – or end-of-year – tests that let us know how students are progressing and how they are mastering the skills and knowledge for their grade level. These tests, called the Colorado Measures of Academic Success tests, or CMAS, are aligned with the Colorado Academic Standards. The tests match content taught in the classroom every day and are designed to measure real- world skills, like critical thinking, problem-solving and writing -- skills that will help them be prepared for success in college and/or careers.

It’s worth noting that these tests provide only one measure of a child’s achievement. Test scores let you see how well your children did in comparison to their peers in the school, district and across the state. They also help show whether your child is ready for the next grade level or is on track to succeed in college and careers. However, as a parent, you should remember that the tests are only one measurement. To get a more complete picture of your child’s performance, the tests should be considered along with classroom grades and teacher feedback.

Your child’s score reports have been broken down to reflect where your child is doing well or where he or she needs more practice. You can use the reports as a discussion guide with your child’s teacher around additional supports that can help your child succeed or to discuss where your child needs more challenging work. The scores can also help you focus learning time at home in the areas that need the most improvement.

For older students, the Khan Academy offers voluntary, optional and free practice resources for the PSAT 9, PSAT 10 and SAT, including practice paper tests, a daily practice app and a partnership with the Boys and Girls Club. Additionally, students can get connections to scholarship providers, access to online college and career planning tools and feedback to support opportunities for rigorous coursework.

The Colorado Department of Education has created tools to help you understand the tests and score reports. All of the resources can be found at <http://www.cde.state.co.us/communications/resourcesforparents>.

Please take some time to review your child’s score and to talk with your child and his or her teacher about their progress.