Superintendents/Principals to Parents, Teachers and School Community

*Use this entire article or just portions of it to communicate with educators about the score reports.*

Parents to receive score reports that identify a student’s academic strengths and areas for improvement, resources available to help

Parents will soon receive student score reports that detail how their students performed on last spring’s statewide assessments, including tests in English language arts, math, science and social studies. In addition, the Colorado Department of Education has developed a passel of resources to help parents navigate the score reports and identify the assessments for the 2017-18 school year.

Statewide assessments taken in the spring by students from third to 11th grade are used to provide academic check-ins and give feedback on students’ progress. The score reports explain whether a student is meeting grade-level expectations and whether he or she is on track for college and/or a career. The report has been broken down to reflect where the student is succeeding or where he or she needs more practice and support.

The tests, which include the Colorado Measures of Academic Success tests, or CMAS, are aligned with the Colorado Academic Standards. They 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 careers. These tests provide only one measure of a child’s achievement. Classroom grades and teacher feedback along with the test scores can provide parents with a more complete picture of their student’s academic progress.

Score reports can be used by parents as a discussion guide about what additional supports can help their students succeed. The reports also can help parents understand where to focus learning time at home.

For older students, Khan Academy offers voluntary, optional and free practice resources for the PSAT 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.

CDE has created tools to help parents understand the tests and what to expect for the school year. Handouts in both English and Spanish include FAQs about the tests, a guide to understanding the score reports and explainers about the SAT and PSAT. All of the resources can be found at <http://www.cde.state.co.us/communications/resourcesforparents>.