



COLORADO MEASURES OF ACADEMIC SUCCESS

What to Expect for the 2018-2019 School Year



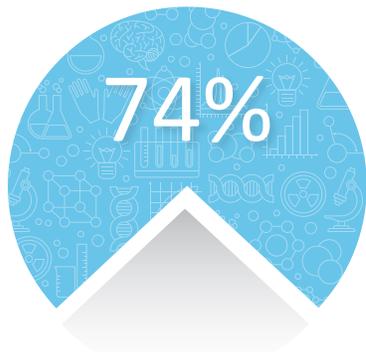
COLORADO
Department of Education

Overview

Colorado's statewide assessment system begins with the Colorado Academic Standards, which are expectations of what students should know and be able to do at the end of each grade. The standards incorporate future skills and essential knowledge that the next generation will need to be successful in college and careers. Colorado's statewide end-of-year assessments are aligned with the standards and help us determine if students have mastered grade-level expectations by the year's end. The standards set clear, consistent guidelines for what students should know

and be able to do at each grade level across 10 subject areas, including English language arts, math, science and social studies. The rigorous standards were designed by educators and researchers, with significant input from higher education and workforce leaders, to help students prepare for life after high school. The standards underwent a thorough review and revision process in 2018. Revised standards are expected to be implemented in the 2020-21 school year.

The Need for Rigorous Standards



In 2020, 74% of all jobs in Colorado

3 MILLION JOBS

WILL REQUIRE

EDUCATION BEYOND HIGH SCHOOL

Key Components of the Standards

Across all 10 content areas, the standards are created to ensure students are prepared for college and careers after high school.

RIGOR

Students use inquiry, critical thinking and creative processes to solve problems

RELEVANCY

Students engage in real world scenarios that require the application and transfer of concepts and skills

DISCIPLINARY LITERACY

Students learn to speak, think, work and argue like mathematicians, artists, scientists, authors and historians

Assessments Align with Rigorous Standards

To accurately measure student mastery of these skills and expectations, Colorado adopts assessments that align with the Colorado Academic Standards. Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS) assessments are the state's common measurement tool of student progress at the end of the school year in English language arts, math, science

and social studies. Designed to be administered online, the tests feature a variety of interactive questions that are engaging and aligned with 21st century teaching and learning practices. The standards-aligned assessments help educators and parents know how their students are able to demonstrate grade-level expectations.

Why Do We Need Statewide Assessments?

Statewide assessments provide valuable information to students, parents, districts and taxpayers about overall academic performance. Summative, end-of-the year assessments provide point-in-time snapshots of what students know and can do in core academic areas. They help students, families and educators know how

students are performing on standards and compared to their peers across the state. They also help determine how they are growing over time. In addition, they help provide information on how well the state's education system is meeting the goals of helping every child attain academic proficiency.

CMAS: Math, English Language Arts, Science, Social Studies

Colorado's statewide assessments are called the Colorado Measures of Academic Success or CMAS. Students in third through eighth grade take the CMAS

assessments in English language arts and math. And once in elementary school and middle school, students take CMAS science and social studies assessments.

College Board's High School Assessments

Colorado students in the ninth and 10th grade take the PSAT tests instead of the CMAS tests in math and English language arts. The PSAT tests are precursors to the SAT.

The Kahn Academy offers voluntary, optional and free practice resources for the PSAT and SAT. Paper tests,

a daily practice app and a partnership with the Boys & Girls Club are also available. Additionally, students can get connections to scholarship providers, access to online college and career planning materials and feedback to support opportunities for rigorous coursework.

2018-19 Tests

In the 2018-19 school year, CMAS testing will take place from April 8 – 26. However, the Colorado Department of Education will allow districts to begin testing online earlier in the content areas of science for high school and English language arts and math for all grades if they cannot complete testing within the allotted timeframe due to limitations on the number of computers or other devices needed for testing. The maximum test window for science and social studies is three weeks and for English language arts and math is five weeks.

COLORADO STATE ASSESSMENT 2018-2019 CALENDAR

AUGUST 2018

CMAS English language arts, math, science and social studies, PSAT, and SAT 2018 results publicly released

APRIL 8 – 26, 2019

Official CMAS English language arts, math, science and social studies administration window

APRIL 9,10,11 2019

PSAT 9 and PSAT 10 administered to ninth- and 10th-grade students

APRIL 9, 2019

SAT administered to 11th-grade students

SUMMER 2019

2019 Results available for CMAS English language arts, math science and social studies, as well as PSAT and SAT

Which Tests Will Students Take?

**GRADES
3 THROUGH 8**



**ENGLISH
LANGUAGE
ARTS/LITERACY**



MATH

**GRADES
4 AND 7**



**SOCIAL
STUDIES**

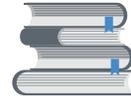
(sampling about
one-third of schools
participating)

**GRADES
5, 8 AND 11**



SCIENCE

**GRADES
9 AND 10**



PSAT

**GRADE
11**



SAT

Why Are Statewide Tests Important?

CMAS tests are the only common measuring tool for students in grades 3 through 8 in Colorado. Participation is important because results help students, parents, schools and districts understand whether students have mastered the content they need to know by the end of the school year and are on track to be ready for college or career after graduation. At the same time, state law requires local school boards to develop a policy allowing

parents to excuse their students from participating in one or more state assessments. According to the law, districts cannot impose negative consequences on students or parents if a parent excuses their student from an assessment. Likewise, districts cannot impose burdens on students to discourage them from participating in an assessment.

How Will State Tests Be Used?

Parents should know whether their children are gaining the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in today's complex world. CMAS is the only common measurement tool for Colorado students, helping teachers and parents understand whether students have mastered the content they need to know by the end of each school year in order to be on track for college and career success. Parents can also use CMAS scores to see how their students and schools are doing compared to other students and schools across the district and the state.

Schools and districts can use CMAS results to make improvements to instruction or to develop additional support and enrichment for students who need more help mastering the standards.

CMAS results from the 2018-19 school year will be used for school and district accreditation ratings in 2019 and for educator evaluations in the 2019-20 school year.

Even after the scores become part of accountability measures, they will not serve as the sole measurement for schools and teachers – other factors will still apply.

When Will Results Be Publicly Available

As with past years, student-level CMAS results from 2019 assessments will be sent to school districts in June. School, district- and state-level summary results

of students' tests in English language arts, math, science, social studies, PSAT and SAT will be released to the public in August.