



COLORADO MEASURES OF ACADEMIC SUCCESS

What to Expect for the 2019-2020 School Year



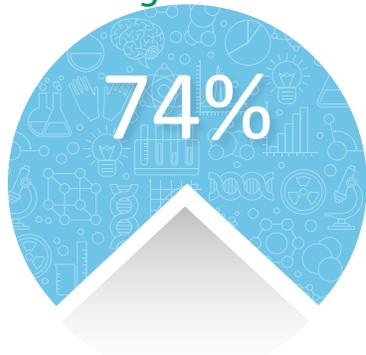
COLORADO
Department of Education

Overview

Created by Coloradoans for Colorado students, the Colorado Academic Standards provide a grade-by-grade road map to help ensure all students are successful in college, careers and life. The standards set expectations for what students should know and be able to do across 10 subject areas, including English language arts, math, science and social studies.

They incorporate future skills and essential knowledge that students will need to be successful later in college and careers. The statewide assessments students in Colorado take every year are aligned with these standards and help determine if students have mastered grade-level expectations by the year's end.

The Need for Rigorous Standards



In 2025, 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

Colorado assessments align with the Colorado Academic Standards to measure student mastery of these skills and expectations. The statewide tests - Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS assessments) - gauge student progress at the end of the school year in English language arts and math for students in grades three through eight, as well as for science in grades, three, eight and 11. In 2020, students will be tested in social

studies in grades four and seven on a sampling basis. Designed to be administered online, the assessments feature a variety of interactive questions that are aligned with 21st century teaching and learning practices. The standards were updated in 2018 to ensure their continued relevancy. Districts are transitioning to the revised standards over the next several years with full implementation expected in 2020-21.

Why Do We Need Statewide Assessments?

Statewide assessments provide valuable information for students, parents, districts and taxpayers about overall academic performance. The assessments provide point-in-time snapshots of what students know and can do in core academic areas. The tests help students, families and educators know how students are

performing compared to their peers across the state. They also help determine student academic growth over time. In addition, the statewide assessments help provide information on how well the state's education system is meeting the goals of helping every child attain academic proficiency.

College Board's High School Assessments

Colorado students in the ninth and 10th grades take PSAT tests, which are precursors to the SAT test that is taken by 11th-graders. The Khan Academy offers voluntary, optional and free practice resources for the PSAT and SAT, including paper tests, a daily practice app and a partnership with the Boys & Girls Club.

Additionally, students can get connections to scholarship providers, access to online college and career planning materials and feedback about rigorous coursework.

2019-20 Tests

In the 2019-20 school year, CMAS testing will take place from April 6 – 24, 2020. Additionally, districts may begin testing earlier 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. The maximum for English language arts and math is five weeks.

COLORADO STATE ASSESSMENT 2019-2020 CALENDAR

AUGUST 2019

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

APRIL 6 – 24, 2020

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

APRIL 14, 15, 16, 2020

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

APRIL 14, 2020

SAT administered to 11th-grade students

SUMMER 2020

2020 Results for CMAS English language arts, math, science and social studies, as well as PSAT and SAT available to schools and districts

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. The PSAT and SAT, along with CMAS science, are the only common statewide tests taken by high school students. Participation is important because the results help students, parents, schools and districts understand if students have mastered the content they need to know by the end of the school year and whether they are on track for college or careers after graduation. The results also let parents know how their student is doing compared with their peers across the school, district

and state. State law requires local school boards to develop policies allowing parents to excuse their students from participating in one or more state assessments. Districts may not impose negative consequences on students who are excused from taking an assessment by their parents. Likewise, districts cannot impose burdens on students to discourage them from participating in an assessment, and they must offer all students who are excused from testing the opportunity to participate in celebrations or incentives related to the 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, PSAT and SAT serve as Colorado's only common measurements for students, helping teachers and parents understand whether their 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. Schools and districts can use test results to make improvements to instruction or to develop additional supports and enrichment for students who need more help mastering the standards. Results from the 2019-20 school year will be used for school and district accreditation ratings in 2020 and for educator evaluations in the 2020-21 school year.

When Will Results Be Publicly Available

Student-level CMAS results from the spring assessments are expected to be available to 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.