

Frequently Asked Questions

Does my child have to take the TCAP?

Per state law [22-7-409(1.2.a.1.d.1)], all students fully enrolled in a Colorado public school must take a state assessment at the appropriate grade level and content areas. All students, regardless of language background or ability, must be provided the opportunity to demonstrate their content knowledge on the TCAP or the CoAlt.

What is the CoAlt?

The Colorado Alternate (CoAlt) assessments are standards-based assessment designed specifically for students with significant cognitive disabilities and is meant to measure student performance relative to the Expanded Benchmarks. For information regarding the CoAlt, please refer to the CoAlt Parent Brochure at: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeassess/documents/csapa/2009/CSAPparentbrochure%20final.pdf>

Will I receive my child's assessment results?

Yes, you will receive a Student Performance Report. This report will give an individual student scale score and the performance level demonstrated (Advanced, Proficient, Partially Proficient, Unsatisfactory) on each of the content area assessments. For more information regarding test results, please review the *CSAP Guide to Test Interpretation* found at: http://http://www.cde.state.co.us/assessment/documents/cotest/GTI_3_8_2011CSAP.PDF

In addition, CDE's *Data Interpretation Guidelines* are located at: http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeassess/index_data.html

Where can I get more information regarding the TCAP?

Please visit the Unit of Student Assessment's TCAP webpage at: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/assessment/CoAssess.asp>

P.A.R.E.N.T.S.

<u>PARTICIPATE</u>	Participate in your child's learning activities. Studies have shown that parent participation and influence have long-term positive effects on student performance.
<u>ASSIST</u>	Assist the educational process by discussing with your child the importance of being actively engaged with learning activities and working to his or her highest possible potential.
<u>REASSURE</u>	Reassure your child that this assessment measures learning and will be used by teachers to better improve instruction.
<u>ENCOURAGE</u>	Encourage your child to get a good night's rest, not just before the assessment but daily, in order to receive optimum benefits from educational opportunities.
<u>NOURISH</u>	Provide opportunities for your child to grow physically, mentally and emotionally.
<u>TEACH</u>	Teach your child to do his or her best in all settings, not just assessment situations.
<u>SUPPORT</u>	Support your child's continued educational progress by modeling the discipline needed to maintain good work habits.

For More Information

Contact your school's administration or your school district's Assessment Coordinator. You can find contact information for District Assessment Coordinators by visiting,

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeassess/DAC>

Parent Brochure

Transitional Colorado Assessment Program (TCAP)

Grades 3-10
Reading, Writing, and
Mathematics

Grades 5, 8 and 10
Science

Grades 3-4
Lectura and Escritura

Colorado Department of Education
Assessment Unit
201 East Colfax Ave.
Denver, CO 80203
(303) 866-6929

cde

TCAP PARENT BROCHURE

Transitional Colorado Assessment Program (TCAP)

Many Colorado parents and educators are familiar with the CSAP, the Colorado Student Assessment program. As schools transition their curricula to reflect the new Colorado Academic Standards, a transitional version of the state assessment called the Transitional Colorado Assessment Program (TCAP) has been adopted. The TCAP is similar to the CSAP in all respects, except that it no longer assesses many academic standards that are not part of the new, Colorado Academic Standards.

The purpose of the TCAP is to:

1. To determine levels of student achievement in the Colorado Model Content Standards.
2. To measure the progress of Colorado students over time.
3. To add to a body of evidence to determine third grade students' literacy.

TCAP Assessment Frameworks define what will be assessed and the TCAP FACT Sheets provide information on test construction. They can be found on the CDE website at: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/assessment/CoAssess-FrameworksAndFactSheets.asp>

Released items give insight into the format of TCAP test items. They can be found at: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/assessment/CoAssess-Released.asp>

Note: CSAP released items and scoring rubrics are still applicable to the TCAP.

Accommodations

Some students may require accommodations in order to access the TCAP and have an equal opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge and skills. Accommodations are changes made to the assessment procedures that do not affect the reliability or validity of the assessment.

The *Colorado Accommodations Manual* provides guidance regarding statewide assessment accommodations and specifically ensures that:

1. Accommodations are provided for students to gain access to instruction and assessments.
2. Accommodations are provided to qualified students.
3. There is a clear connection between accommodations used in instruction and those used on assessments

Guidelines for allowable accommodations for English Learners (ELs) are outlined in the *Colorado Accommodations Guide for English Learners*.

Both of these manuals can be found at: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/assessment/CoAssess-Accommodations.asp>

Colorado Growth Model

The Colorado Growth Model measures the academic progress of individual students. It enables parents, schools, districts and the state to understand how individual students are progressing from year to year, and to show opportunities for student growth.

For more information regarding the Colorado Growth Model, please visit:

https://cdeapps.cde.state.co.us/growth_model_public/

Revising Colorado's Standards and Assessments

The Colorado Academic Standards were recently revised to include early school readiness and postsecondary competencies, as well as to reflect both workforce readiness and 21st century skills. They were adopted by the State Board of Education on December 10, 2009.

To access the revised Colorado Academic Standards, please visit:

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/StandardsAndInstruction/ColoradoStandards.asp>

In addition to the updated state content standards, the department is currently developing a new state assessment system currently scheduled to be implemented during the 2013-2014 school year. This new system will reflect the expectations of the updated standards and the requirements of CAP4K (Colorado Achievement Plan for Kids).

Until the new state assessment system is in place, the TCAP will still be aligned to the previous Colorado Model Content Standards AND will be given to Colorado students during the 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 academic school years.

For more information regarding the current state assessment revision process, please visit:

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/assessment/NewAssess.asp>