

Frequently Asked Questions

Why does my child have to take the CSAP?

Per state law [22-7-409(1.2.a.1.d.1)], all public school students enrolled in a Colorado school in the grades tested must be accounted for in the CSAP. This means that every student, regardless of language background or ability, must be provided the opportunity to demonstrate their content knowledge on the CSAP or the CSAPA.

What is the CSAPA?

The Colorado Student Assessment Program Alternate (CSAPA) is a standards-based assessment designed specifically for students with significant cognitive disabilities and is meant to provide a picture of student performance relative to the Expanded Benchmarks. For information regarding the CSAPA, please refer to the CSAPA Parent Brochure at: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeassess/documents/csapa/2009/CSAPAparentbrochure%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://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeassess/documents/csap/gti.html>

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

Where can I get more information regarding the CSAP?

Please visit the Unit of Student Assessment's CSAP webpage at: http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeassess/index_csap.html

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

- PARTICIPATE** Participate in your child's learning activities. Studies have shown that parent participation and influence have long-term positive effects on student performance.
- ASSIST** 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.
- REASSURE** Reassure your child that this assessment measures learning and will be used by teachers to better improve instruction.
- ENCOURAGE** 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.
- NOURISH** Provide opportunities for your child to grow physically, mentally and emotionally.
- TEACH** Teach your child to do his or her best in all settings, not just assessment situations.
- SUPPORT** Support your child's continued educational progress by modeling the discipline needed to maintain good work habits.

Contact Information

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Parent Brochure

Colorado Student Assessment Program (CSAP)

Grades 3-10
Reading, Writing, and
Mathematics

Grades 5, 8 and 10
Science

Grades 3-4
Lectura and Escritura

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cde

CSAP PARENT BROCHURE

Colorado Student Assessment Program (CSAP)

The CSAP is Colorado's standards-based assessment. There are three purposes to the CSAP program:

1. To determine the level at which Colorado students meet the Colorado Model Content Standards in the content areas assessed.
1. To measure the progress of Colorado students over time.
2. To add to a body of evidence to determine third grade students' literacy levels.

CSAP Assessment Frameworks define what will be assessed on the test. These documents, in addition to the CSAP FACT Sheets which give information regarding test construction, can be found on the CDE website at:

http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeassess/documents/csap_frameworks.html

The *CSAP Procedures Manual* includes information regarding CDE contacts, important dates, responsible assessment practices, test administration guidelines, student data variables, and an overview of assessment reporting practices. This document can be found online at:

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

Released items help give insight into the format of CSAP test items. They can be found at:

http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeassess/released_items.html

Accommodations

Some students may require an accommodation, in order to access the CSAP 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 in order for students to gain access to instruction and assessments
2. accommodations are provided to qualified students; and
3. there is clear connection between accommodations used in instruction and on assessments

Guidelines for allowable accommodations for English Language Learners (ELLs) are outlined in the *Colorado Accommodations Manual for English Language Learners*.

Both of these manuals can be found at: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeassess/publications.html>

Colorado Growth Model

The Colorado Growth Model measures the academic progress an individual student has made when compared to other students with a similar CSAP score history. It enables parents, schools, districts and the state to understand how individual students are progressing from year to year, and provides a common measure to show how much growth is needed for each student to reach state standards.

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/cdeassess/UAS/CoAcademicStandards.html>

An FAQ about the standards implementation process can also be found at:

http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeassess/documents/OSA/standards_implementation_FAQ_12.31.09.pdf

In addition to the updated state content standards, the department is currently developing a new state assessment system that will be implemented during the 2011-2012 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 current CSAP will still be aligned to the previous Colorado Model Content Standards AND will be given to Colorado students during the 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 academic school years.

For more information regarding the current state assessment revision process, please visit: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/asmtrev/home.htm>