

**Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS)
PARCC
Parent Information Letter**

Dear Parent or Guardian,

This letter explains state assessments as they relate to your student’s educational program. The Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS) is the name of the state’s English language arts, mathematics, science and social studies assessments. CMAS is based on the Colorado Academic Standards. This ensures that all districts are held to the same challenging standards that Coloradans expect for their students regardless of whether they live in urban, suburban, or rural areas.

Purposes of the CMAS

The CMAS program serves the following main purposes:

1. To help each student and his or her family know how the student is performing in meeting the academic standards and how they compare to their peers, and to know how the student has grown over time academically.
2. To enable teachers to see how their students are performing against the academic standards, and identify areas they may need to adjust in their practice for the future.
3. To provide school and district leaders, the state, policymakers, and the public with information on how well the educational system is meeting the goals of helping every child attain academic proficiency.

How CMAS Assessments are Administered

CMAS will be administered in a standardized manner through a secure electronic online process supervised by CMAS Test Administrators. Students will have access to the internet in a manner that will only allow them to participate in the CMAS assessments. The tests will run in the morning and will take approximately 80 minutes. The tests will be given in a three week period during the month of April.

Assessment Requirements and Parental Exemption

Colorado law requires all students to take the assessments: **“Each student enrolled in a public school is required to take the state assessments (in the content areas and at the student’s grade level).”** - Colorado Revised Statutes, Section 22-7-1006.3(3). This means that every student, regardless of language background or ability, must be provided the opportunity to demonstrate their content knowledge on state assessments. However, in 2015, the Colorado state legislature passed a law requiring every school district to develop policies allowing parents to excuse their student from participating in one or more state assessments. Parents choosing to excuse their student from participation must complete and file their request in writing with the school principal. The request for exemption should be filed at the earliest possible date in the school year and will be valid for one school year. Requests for exemption from state assessments in subsequent school years require a new written request.

District Policy

Parents may opt their students out of the CMAS/PARCC testing but MAY NOT opt their child out of the PSAT, ACT or Scantron testing.

I have read the above information about CMAS and I am choosing to exempt my child from participating in the following state assessments this school year.

_____ **CMAS: Science & Social Studies**
Grades 4 & 7 for SS/Grades 5 & 8 for Science

_____ **CMAS: PARCC ELA & Math**
Grades 3-9

_____ Student Name

_____ Grade

_____ Parent/Guardian Signature

_____ School Principal Signature