

March 13 2020

Superintendents,

As a follow-up to our call this afternoon, below is the email that was just sent to your district assessment coordinators.

Respectfully,

Joyce Zurkowski
Chief Assessment Officer

Date: March 13, 2020

Subject: *DAC* COVID-19 and State Assessment

Dear District Assessment Coordinators:

CDE understands that many schools and districts are wondering how COVID-19 may impact state testing this spring. CDE has actively monitored COVID-19 developments across the world, country and within Colorado over the last several weeks. The health and safety of students, educators and communities is the state's top priority and CDE is committed to making adjustments to the state assessment landscape as more information about the state of the situation in Colorado emerges. Due to the large number of current school and district closures, the following information can be provided at this time:

CMAS and CoAlt

- The extended CMAS and CoAlt online ELA and Math window will not open next week as previously scheduled.
- The CMAS and CoAlt Social Studies administration for spring 2020 is cancelled.
- Wave 2 test materials scheduled for delivery on March 24th have been placed on hold.

PSAT/SAT

- Shipments of pre-administration and secure test materials have been placed on hold until further notice. Planning around shipments is ongoing and evolving and we will provide updates as they become available.
- College Board is continuing to support SAT administrations for students using vouchers on the March 14th testing date. However, given the number of districts and related testing centers that will be closed beginning this evening, districts should be aware of the following:
 - Test Centers have been told to notify the College Board of their closures. Test Centers have also been encouraged to provide notice of any closures to their local community by posting this information on their own website, alerting local media, and putting signage

on the doors of the Test Center. Students were advised to check the College Board website before reporting to their Test Center. Test Center closures are posted on the College Board website at <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/register/test-center-closings>.

- Students who registered to test on March 14th using a voucher but are unable to do so because their Test Center has closed may participate on the April 28th make-up day at their school's planned offsite testing location. Additional opportunities may become available. College Board will contact students who registered for the March 14th test administration at their own expense regarding make-up options.

Given the unique role that the SAT Suite serves for our students in terms of scholarships and college entrance, we are working closely with College Board and with other states that use the SAT statewide to generate possible solutions for preserving SAT and PSAT testing opportunities for Colorado students in an equitable manner. We will continue working with our vendors to determine plausible contingency plans and additional guidance and information will be provided as it becomes available.

We understand that the U.S. Department of Education would like a good faith attempt to administer the state assessments, and we too believe in the importance of a valid assessment and accountability system. First and foremost, however, students and educators need to return to a sense of stability and normalcy and any interrupted instruction needs to be resumed, especially for our younger and more vulnerable students. These fundamentals are essential to engaging in a valid assessment administration and the CMAS assessment window will not open unless these are reestablished.

Thank you for your continued partnership as we work through this evolving situation. As always, please contact us with circumstances that are specific to your district.