

State Tests During the COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS)



Prioritizing health and safety during CMAS testing

CMAS is administered each year across the state and the tests are the only common measuring tool for Colorado students. CMAS testing is administered in person and **will occur only if and when** state and local health orders and district policies for COVID-19 allow students and staff to safely be in school buildings.

Parents and guardians of children who are learning remotely should consider their family's health needs when deciding whether to allow their child to come into the school building for testing. Parental decisions not to send children into school buildings will be respected. There will be no negative consequences for students or parents if students receiving their instruction remotely do not take the CMAS tests.

Dates extended to allow more time to safely conduct tests

The Colorado Department of Education has extended the dates during which CMAS can be given to provide districts with more flexibility to schedule the tests when it is safe for students and staff and more time to make plans for the best health safety practices. CMAS can be given between April 12 – May 14, 2021 during the state's extended official window. Districts may also begin online testing as early as March 22, 2021.

Protecting health and safety of students and teachers

The health and safety of students and teachers is the top priority. Extra precautions will be taken to ensure that CMAS tests can be administered safely.

- Sharing of materials will be limited
- Spacing between students will be maximized
- Staff and students with COVID-19 symptoms will remain home
- Ventilation and air flow will be maximized
- Staff and students will wash their hands or use hand sanitizer before and after testing

CMAS tests can provide valuable information about student achievement

Spring 2021 state assessment results are expected to look different than results from previous years for many students because of the unique, challenging and differential impacts of the pandemic; however, CMAS results are intended to support educators, schools and districts.

1. CMAS results helps parents and educators understand if students have mastered the content they need to know by the end of the school year as well as how students are doing in comparison to others in their school, their district and across the state.
2. Reviewing CMAS data can help schools make improvements in classrooms and programs and can help districts make improvements across schools.
3. This year's statewide CMAS test results will help state lawmakers and other policymakers evaluate how the pandemic has impacted student achievement across Colorado and direct resources to meet the greatest needs.
4. CMAS results can help support the evaluation of future recovery efforts and provide insight into the pandemic's potential differential impact across Colorado student groups.
5. Spring 2021 CMAS results are not expected to be included in the state school and district ratings or teacher evaluations.