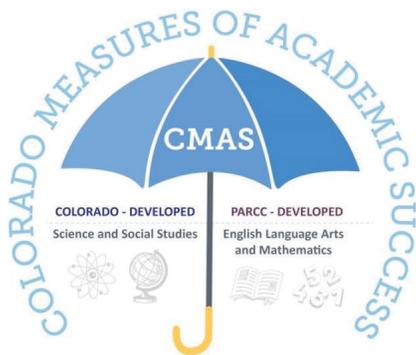


Navigating the CMAS: PARCC Assessments

A breakdown for parents

CMAS: PARCC (Colorado Measures of Academic Success: Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers) are new statewide tests that assess English language arts and math.

Taken for the first time in spring 2015, CMAS: PARCC aligns with the Colorado Academic Standards and raises expectations in order to prepare students for college or careers after graduation. The CMAS: PARCC assessments are one measure to make sure that at each grade level your child is on track to thrive in the world beyond high school.



The CMAS: PARCC assessments for English language arts and math fall under the statewide testing umbrella called the Colorado Measures of Academic Success or CMAS. Also included under the umbrella are the CMAS science and social studies assessments. Beginning with the 2015-16 school year, House Bill 15-1323 added the requirement of a College Preparatory Exam for the 10th grade and the College Entrance Exam for the 11th grade. In the past, the College Entrance Exam was known as the ACT.

For a grade-by-grade testing schedule, visit www.adams12.org/cmas

CMAS: PARCC Results

CMAS: PARCC tests replace TCAP tests. We can't compare CMAS: PARCC and TCAP results, because it's like comparing apples and oranges — they're two, completely different tests.

The tests measure mastery of the new state standards, which are much more challenging in order to prepare your child for their future.

The CMAS: PARCC tests

- Align to different (more challenging) standards
- Utilize critical thinking and analytical skills
- Have a different score range and scale

When you are ready to understand your child's score breakdown, visit www.cde.state.co.us/communications/parcc-scorecardexplainer for a helpful guide.

“My child's score is lower on CMAS: PARCC than other tests. What do I do?”

Don't worry!

Your child's test scores may be lower than what you saw on old tests — this is normal and reflected nationwide. This is not permanent. It is likely that scores will start rising again as students and teachers get used to the higher standards and become better prepared to meet the more challenging material. Children are not losing ground, the state has just set a higher bar and established a new baseline.

We know our students can reach these higher standards, and we are committed to ensuring our students' performance on these assessments increases from this baseline.

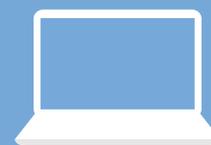
Through the eyes of your child *Your student's CMAS: PARCC testing experience*



CMAS: PARCC tests require students to use complex skills like critical thinking and problem solving. Sample questions can be found at www.parcconline.org/assessments/practice-tests or www.understandthescore.org.



Time spent taking CMAS: PARCC English language arts and math tests.



CMAS: PARCC tests are conducted online.