



Spring 2025 CMAS Assessment Coordinator Training General Information

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Agenda

- **What, Why, and How of CMAS Assessment**
- **Assessment Development Initiative**
- **Resources**
- **Overview of What's New this Year**
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- **Paper-based Testing**
- **Assessment Information and Calendar & Parent Excusals**
- **Personally Identifiable Information (PII)**



What, Why, and How of CMAS Assessment

● What is CMAS?

- CMAS stands for **Colorado Measures of Academic Success**.
- It is Colorado's **statewide assessment system** that measures how well students meet the **Colorado Academic Standards (CAS)**.
- Subjects tested:
 - English Language Arts (ELA)
 - Mathematics
 - Science
 - (Some schools) Social Studies

● Why CMAS?

- To check if students are **meeting grade-level standards**.
- Helps track **student progress and school performance**.
- Supports **instruction and school improvement**, not used for punishment.

● How is CMAS Developed?

- **Colorado educators** help create and review test questions.
- The questions are designed to be **fair, clear, and aligned** to the state standards.
- The assessment system evolves based on **feedback and continuous improvement**.



CMAS Test Design – How the Test is Built

Frameworks & Blueprints

- Outline what topics and skills are tested.
- Link questions to Colorado Academic Standards (CAS).
 - Ensure a balanced and fair representation of content.
- Created with input from Colorado educators.

Performance Level Descriptors (PLDs)

- Describe what students at each level (Did Not Yet Meet, Approached, Met, Exceeded) should know and do.
- Indicate if students are on track for college and career readiness.
- Developed with insights from real classroom teaching.

Performance Levels & Cut Scores

- Group student results into clear performance levels.
- Cut scores set by Colorado educators during "standard setting."
- These scores stay the same each year for consistency.



Assessment Development Initiative

- Continued focus on authentic representation of all students in assessment development
 - In passages and items
 - Through author selection
- Increase student engagement through cultural responsiveness
 - Socioeconomic statuses
 - Disabilities
 - Ethnicities
 - Rural, mountainous, urban, suburban
- Become a thought partner – help CDE learn from local experts
 - Participate in CMAS and CoAlt development educator meetings
 - Register for the [Educator Database](#) to receive invitations to meetings based on your areas of expertise



Resources

Procedures Manual – For Assessment Coordinators:

- Covers test security, test setup, accommodations, and data management.
- Step-by-step instructions for before, during, and after testing.
- Available online.

• Test Administrator Manuals (TAMs) – For Test Administrators:

- Provides scripts and detailed instructions for running tests.
- Two types: Computer-Based Testing (CBT) and Paper-Based Testing (PBT).
- Printed copies shipped in March by Pearson.



Resources

Quick Reference Materials

- CMAS Overview
- Technology Overview
- Before Testing Checklist
- Unit Testing Times and Testing Multiple Groups Guidance
- State Assessment Acronyms
- Creating Sample Students in the PAnext Training Site
- CMAS and CoAlt Security Agreement → Sign and return to DAC/SAC.

All these resources are available online at:

<https://www.cde.state.co.us/assessment/training-cmas>

Overview of What's New this Year

Return of social studies (sampled schools only)

- Districts received list of selected schools in September
- Social studies tests are comprised of a single 65-minute unit
- Test codes for CMAS (SS04S and SS07S) and CoAlt (SS04A and SS07A) were re-added to PA^{next}
- If schools are selected for social studies administration, make sure social studies tests are assigned to students in grades 4 and/or 7

Assistive Technology forms are now available for all content area assessments

- The Assistive Technology form allows certain whitelisted programs to run on a student's device while using TestNav, the student testing application

Online Test Sessions Setup

- Online sessions cannot be prepared if a student in the session is assigned a Not Tested Code
 - An error will appear indicating student(s) that need to be addressed
 - If the student *should* test, remove the Not Tested Code and Reason
 - If the student *should not* test, remove the student's test from the session

District Testing Selections

District Assessment Coordinators, or DACs, are required to complete an online form called the **District Testing Information and Format Selections form.**

This form tells the Colorado Department of Education how your district plans to conduct CMAS testing in the spring.

How Do You Access the Form?

- The link to the form is shared **only with official DACs**, appointed by the Superintendent, and it's sent **after they complete the CDE-hosted CMAS Administration Training.**

What Information Does the Form Include?

- The **testing window dates** for your district,
- **Transfer request contact information** in case a student moves during testing,
- **Test format selections** by school, grade, and subject—choosing either online or paper tests,
- And other details like closure days, spring break schedules, and when your district can receive testing shipments

Paper-based Testing

LEP must create and follow a **written policy** for deciding on paper-based state assessments. And the policy should explain

- **How the decision is made** to use paper tests.
- The decision must be made **in consultation with schools and parents**.
- The number of students needing paper tests must be reported to **CDE before the initial ordering deadline**.

Security Responsibilities

Schools and districts using paper tests must:

- Follow strict **security procedures**.
- **Document chain-of-custody**
- File reports for any **missing test materials**.

Considerations Before Test:

- **Technology capacity**
- **Logistics**
- **Must have the grade appropriate calculators for math (grades 6-8)**

This policy must be:

- **Shared with parents**
- **Posted on the LEP's website.**

The LEP can decide to give the paper version:

By **school**,
By **grade level**.

Assessment Information and Calendar & Parent Excusals

Assessment Information and Calendar

- LEP will annually distribute to parents and post on its website, as early in the school year as possible, written information regarding its assessments, including:
- The state and local assessments that the LEP will administer
- Identify whether it is required by federal law, required by state law or selected by the LEP
- Assessment calendar:
 - Approximate testing hours on each day of testing
 - Identify whether the assessment is required by state law, federal law or locally selected
- The LEP must also explain the purpose of each assessment and the assessment results will be used.

Parent Excusals

- Colorado parents have the legal right to excuse their child from participating in one or more state assessments, like CMAS.
- Each LEP will adopt and implement a written policy and procedure by which a student's parent may excuse the student from participating in one or more of the state content assessments.
- If a student is excused from an assessment, the LEP cannot impose negative consequences on the student or their parent.
- Districts also cannot pressure students to take or skip the test.
They cannot create extra burdens that:
- Discourage a student from taking a test, or
- Encourage a parent to excuse their child unnecessarily



Personally Identifiable Information (PII)

- **PII refers to any information that can identify a specific student**, either on its own or when combined with other data.(student's name, their SASID (State Assigned Student Identifier) , demographic information).
- State and Federal laws require protection of student PII.
- Emails can be intercepted, forwarded, and misrouted and are not secure methods for transmitting PII
- It is CDE policy that any email with PII sent to, from, and within CDE must be encrypted
- CDE strongly recommends that you encrypt emails with PII that are sent to other parties (other districts, within the district, vendors, etc.)
- **Syncplicity** is a secure file-sharing platform used by school districts (**DACs**) to safely send sensitive information, like **Personally Identifiable Information (PII)** and testing files, to the **Colorado Department of Education (CDE)**.