

The Role of State Assessments in Increasing Academic Achievement

CMAS



COLORADO
Department of Education

Colorado has a series of educational standards, known as the Colorado Academic Standards, that outline academic objectives for students in every grade across 10 content areas. Fully implemented in the 2013-14 school year, the standards have raised the bar for Colorado students, increasing the expectations so they are prepared to succeed in college or careers upon high school graduation. To measure students' mastery of more rigorous standards in grades three through nine, Colorado has implemented a set of common assessments known as the Colorado Measures of Academic Success, or CMAS.

PURPOSE AND VALUE OF STATE ASSESSMENTS

CMAS are the only common measuring tool in Colorado for students in third- through ninth-grade. Measuring real-world skills like problem-solving and critical thinking, the tests are aligned to classroom work so teachers do not have to “teach to the test.”

“I want my son to graduate high school on time ready for college or a career, and one way to ensure I know that he is on this path is by taking the state exam.”

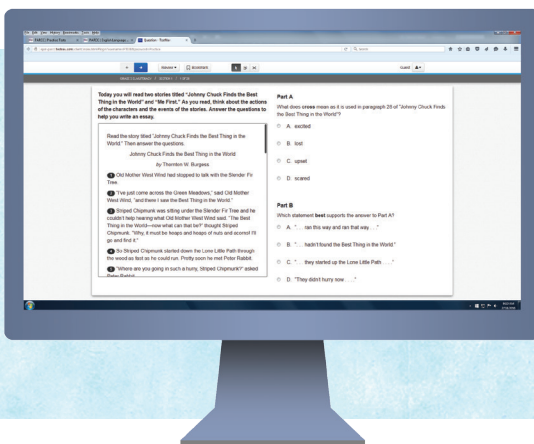
Maribel Banuelos

While CMAS assessments are only one measure of student learning, having all Colorado students take this set of assessments provides parents with answers to these important questions:

- How well is my child doing on meeting state standards compared to other students?
- Which schools and districts perform best in preparing students for success in meeting the state standards?
- Which districts have the best performance on the state standards for children with special needs?
- What schools and districts have the best performance on the state standards for children of color?

Additionally, state assessment results provide:

- information educators need to help improve instruction.
- identification of districts and schools that have struggling students, so help can be provided.
- recognition of high performing systems so others may learn from them.

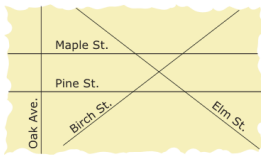


Practice Items Help Students Be Ready

Parents are sometimes concerned that participating in these tests can cause anxiety in their child or that preparing for the test takes away time from instruction. Because these tests are aligned to the CAS and classroom instruction, they should not cause any more anxiety than any of the other tests student take as part of their education. Also, practice items are available to help familiarize parents and students with test content and structure.

Practice Items - Geometry - English and Spanish

The diagram represents a portion of a small city. Maple Street and Pine Street run exactly east to west. Oak Avenue runs exactly north to south. All of the streets remain straight.

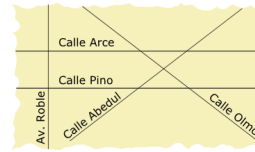


Which statements must be true, based only on the given information?

Select **all** that apply.

- A. Birch Street and Elm Street intersect at right angles.
- B. Maple Street and Pine Street are parallel.
- C. If more of the map is shown, Elm Street and Oak Avenue will not intersect.
- D. Pine Street intersects both Birch Street and Elm Street.
- E. Oak Avenue and Maple Street are perpendicular.

El diagrama representa una porción de una ciudad pequeña. La calle Arce y la calle Pino van exactamente de este a oeste. La avenida Roble va exactamente de norte a sur. Todas las calles son líneas rectas.



¿Cuáles declaraciones deben ser verdaderas, solamente con base en la información dada?

Selecciona **todas** las que correspondan.

- A. La calle Abedul y la calle Olmo se intersecan en ángulos rectos.
- B. La calle Arce y la calle Pino son paralelas.
- C. Si se muestra más del mapa, la calle Olmo y la avenida Roble no se intersecarán.
- D. La calle Pino se interseca con la calle Abedul y la calle Olmo.
- E. La avenida Roble y la calle Arce son perpendiculares.

To learn more about the Practice Tests please go to
<http://parcc.pearson.com/> or <http://parcc.pearson.com/practice-tests/>

Parental excuse from participation

State law allows parents to excuse their child from taking state assessments. If a parent wants to excuse his or her child from participating in an assessment, the district is not allowed to impose negative consequences on the students or parents. Parents should know, however, that non-participation in state assessments means they will not have information on their child's attainment and growth on the state standards compared to other children.

Data Security

CDE is committed to ensuring that data on individual students are secure. CDE does not report individual student data to the federal government; the department has strict policies and procedures in place to maintain data security. For more information on data privacy and security please go to <http://www.cde.state.co.us/dataprivacyandsecurity>.



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