

Dear Jaguar Nation,

Starting the second week of April, Jenkins will begin CMAS, our state assessment. CMAS is the sole test that is used to evaluate a school. I know that there are a variety of opinions about this, but that is how School Performance Ratings are determined. In addition, state testing is our public face. Anyone looking to move into the area will review the Jenkins School Performance Framework to see how we rank compared to other schools and districts. Check out the following article: Test Scores and Housing Costs: <https://economix.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/04/19/test-scores-and-housing-costs/>

At Jenkins, we have a very talented student and teacher population; we are very fortunate. As a result, we only need our students to try on the exam. This is not something that is meant to be stressful. Again, we just need our students to try their best and to complete all parts of the exam.

If a school is rated poorly due to low state test scores, there can be negative consequences per the Colorado Department of Education. If a school falls into a Turnaround Plan or Priority Improvement Plan due to low test scores and remains in that status for multiple years, the accountability pathways include charter school conversion, school closure, and/or removal of accreditation.

Why?

- We can see how a child is performing relative to other students at Jenkins Middle School, within the district, and state.
- It prepares students for standardized assessments that they will be required to take in high school, college (SAT, ACT, LSAT, MCAT, etc.) or other vocational programs.
- We can make informed decisions and choices for our students. Test data is used by administration and staff to drive instruction/curriculum and professional development choices.
- Test data may identify learning gaps that can be addressed.
- Identification of districts and schools that have struggling students, so help can be provided.

How are the results used?

As part of a **BODY of EVIDENCE**, state assessments are used to:

- drive instruction for a student
- identify targeted interventions
- place students in appropriate classes at the middle school level as well as high school
- identify gifted and talented students during the identification process
- determine effectiveness regarding instruction and determine whether Jenkins instructional practices are effective

What happens with the data?

- CDE is committed to ensuring that data on individual students is 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.
- The results of CMAS are the backbone of the state's accountability system. The state uses CMAS data to populate the annual school and district performance frameworks which is the result in accreditation ratings for each school and district.

**Please contact Tony Jackowski with questions: anthony.jackowski@d11.org
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Excerpts taken from the CDE link:

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/communications/stateassessmentsandacademicachievement>