

## **Grading/Assessment Systems**

In its instructional program, the district shall seek to make achievement both recognizable and possible for students. It shall emphasize achievement in its processes of evaluating student performance.

### **State assessment system**

State and federal law require district students to take standardized assessments in the instructional areas of English language arts, math and science. State law also requires students to take standardized assessments in the instructional area of social studies. Accordingly, the district shall administer standardized assessments pursuant to these state and federal legal requirements.

State law also requires the district to adopt policies and/or procedures concerning the use of pencil and paper on the computerized portion of state assessments; parent requests to excuse their children from taking state assessments; and the district's assessment calendar. This policy and its accompanying regulation represent the district's processes to address these requirements.

#### **1. Pencil and paper testing option**

The district may determine that a specific classroom or school within the district will use pencil and paper to complete the computerized portions of a state assessment. Factors that will be considered in making this determination include:

- the technological capacity and resources of the particular school/classroom;
- students' previous experience with computerized and written assessments;
- whether the instructional methodology of the particular school/classroom is consistent with the use of computerized assessments or written assessments; and
- the logistics of administering the state assessment in different formats at a particular school or schools.

For students with disabilities, the use of pencil and paper instead of a computer to complete a state assessment shall be determined by the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) team or Section 504 team, in accordance with applicable law.

#### **2. Parent/guardian request for exemption**

A parent/guardian who wishes to exempt his or her child from a particular state assessment or assessments shall make this request in accordance with this policy's accompanying regulation.

In accordance with state law, the district shall not impose a negative consequence upon a student whose parent/guardian has requested an exemption from a state assessment or assessments.

This policy's exemption process shall apply only to state assessments and shall not apply to district or classroom assessments.

### **3. Sharing of student state assessment results with parents/guardians**

The Colorado Department of Education is required to provide diagnostic academic growth information for each student enrolled in the district and for each public school in the district based on the state assessment results for the preceding school years. This information shall be included in each student's individual student record. Appropriate school personnel, including those who work directly with the student, shall have access to the student's state assessment results and longitudinal academic growth information and shall share with and explain that information to the student's parent/guardian.

#### **District assessment system**

In addition to the state assessment system, the district has developed a comprehensive assessment system that:

- challenges students to think critically, apply what they have learned and gives them the opportunity to demonstrate their skills and knowledge;
- includes "early warning" features that allow problems to be diagnosed promptly to let students, teachers and parents/guardians know that extra effort is necessary;
- provides reliable and valid information on student and school performance to educators, parents/guardians and employers; and
- provides timely and useful data for instructional improvement and improved student learning, including feedback useful in determining whether the curriculum is aligned with the district's academic standards.

In accordance with applicable law, the district's assessment system shall accommodate students with disabilities and English language learners.

#### **Additional assessment information for parents/guardians**

In accordance with state law and this policy's accompanying regulation, the district shall distribute an assessment calendar and related information to parents/guardians on an annual basis to inform them about the state and district assessments that the district plans to administer during the school year.

#### **Classroom assessment system**

Classroom assessment practices shall be aligned with the district's academic standards and assessment program. Assessment is an integral part of the teaching and learning process that should occur continuously in the classroom. The primary purpose of classroom assessment shall be to enable teachers to make instructional decisions for students on a continual basis.

## Grading system

The administration and licensed staff shall devise a grading system for evaluating and recording student progress and to measure student performance in conjunction with the district's academic standards. The records and reports of individual students shall be kept in a form meaningful to parents/guardians as well as teachers.

The Board shall approve the grading, reporting and assessment systems as developed by the licensed staff, upon recommendation of the superintendent.

Adopted: February 27, 2001  
Revised: August 27, 2002  
June 23, 2015  
September 22, 2015

### LEGAL REFS.:

C.R.S. 22-7-1006.3 (1) *(state assessment implementation schedule)*  
C.R.S. 22-7-1006.3 (1)(d) *(district must report to CDE the number of students who will take the state assessment in a pencil and paper format)*  
  
C.R.S. 22-7-1006.3 (7)(d) *(state assessment results included on student report card if feasible)*  
C.R.S. 22-7-1006.3 (8)(a) *(policy required to ensure explanation of student state assessment results)*  
C.R.S. 22-7-1013 (1) *(district academic standards)*  
C.R.S. 22-7-1013 (6) *(policy required regarding the use of pencil and paper on state assessments)*  
C.R.S. 22-7-1013 (7) *(procedure required concerning distribution of assessment calendar to parents/guardians)*  
C.R.S. 22-7-1013 (8) *(policy and procedure required to allow parents to excuse their children from participation in state assessments)*  
C.R.S. 22-11-101 *et seq. (Education Accountability Act of 2009)*  
C.R.S. 22-11-203 (2)(a) *(principal required to provide educators access to their students' academic growth information "upon receipt" of that information)*  
C.R.S. 22-11-504 (3) *(policy required to ensure explanation of student state assessment results and longitudinal growth information)*

CROSS REFS.: AEA, Standards Based Education  
AED\*, Accreditation  
IK, Academic Achievement  
JRA/JRC, Student Records/Release of Information on Students