

2025-26 Assessment Calendar

Colorado Springs School District 11

Last updated: 7/25/25

Education Insights

District Benchmark 3 rd -11 th grade students (Other grades optional)			
➤ Fall: August 19 - August 25 ➤ Winter: December 2 – December 8 ➤ Spring: April 1 – April 7			
DIBELS 8 Kindergarten – 3 rd grade students			
⌞ Beginning of Year: • Grades 1-3: August 13 – September 5 (Schools choose two-week testing window) • Kindergarten: August 13 – November 10 (READ Act: rules allow 90 days for Kinder) ⌞ Middle of Year: December 1 – December 19 (Schools choose two-week testing window) ⌞ End of Year: April 20 – May 8 (Schools choose two-week testing window)			
Teaching Strategies Gold (TS GOLD) Kindergarten students			
➤ August 13 – October 10 (Data Entry Complete by October 13 to meet parent conference timeline)			
Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) or Naglieri General Ability Tests (NGAT)			
➤ CogAT - 6 th grade testing window (selected students only): September 22 - October 10 ➤ NGAT- All 2 nd grade: January 12 – February 6			
ACCESS for ELLs Limited/Non-English proficient multilingual K-12 students			
➤ January 12 – February 13 (Tentative)			
Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS) • ELA and Math (All 3-8 grade students) • Science (All 5th, 8th & 11th grade students) • Social Studies (4th & 7th grade students at schools listed below)			
➤ April 6 – April 24 (Tentative) **Reminder**- The last week of testing windows are for make-ups only			
Schools administering CMAS Social Studies			
CO PSAT and SAT 9 th , 10 th and 11 th grade students			
➤ April 13 – April 24 (Tentative)			
CoAlt DLM ELA and Math Eligible 3 rd -11 th grade students		CoAlt Science and Social Studies Eligible 4 th , 5 th , 7 th , & 8 th grade students	
➤ CoAlt test windows directly correspond to the CMAS, P-SAT, and SAT testing windows.			
National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) A sampling of up to 50 students in the schools and grades specified below.			
➤ January 26 - March 20, 2026			
Academy ACL (Gr8)	Edison Elem (Gr4)	McAuliffe Elem (Gr4)	North Middle (Gr8)

NOTES:

- All State mandated tests and testing windows are tentative. As changes are announced, this table will be updated on the D11 Calendars webpage.
- Additional information regarding these assessments is included on the following page.
- NGAT and ACCESS testing windows overlap. Work with school staff to develop a proactive scheduling solution.

- **D11 District Benchmark:** Star Renaissance assessments are computer-adaptive tests that measure student achievement on reading and math skills. As a student takes the assessment, the assessment selects items based on the student's responses. School level testing in ELA and Math is required for grades 3-11 (K-2 is optional). [Find out more about Star here.](#) District Mandated. Time: Up to 75 minutes per year.
- **DIBELS 8** assesses the early literacy and reading skills of students in kindergarten through sixth grade. Results are used to identify students with reading difficulties, target specific instructional support and monitor student progress. [Find out more about DIBELS 8 here.](#) Colorado mandated. Compliance with the READ Act. Time: Up to 5 hours per school year
- **TS Gold** is a series of 52 teacher observations. The results are used to evaluate a kindergartener's readiness for school. [Find out more about TS Gold here.](#) Colorado Mandated. Time: (not applicable; observations made by teacher).
- **CogAT** is an aptitude test that measures a student's general and specific cognitive ability in verbal, quantitative, and nonverbal reasoning as well as problem-solving skills. [Find out more about CogAT here.](#) District mandated. Time: 2.5 hours
- **NGAT** was developed to address the need for equitable assessment of gifted students from diverse cultural, linguistic, and socioeconomic backgrounds so they can receive educational opportunities appropriate for their ability. The NGAT provides students the opportunity to demonstrate their ability to solve problems using Verbal, Nonverbal, and Quantitative content. District mandated. Time: 2 hours
- **Access for ELLs** is a computer based online assessment that monitors multilingual students' progress in acquiring academic English in the domains of speaking, listening, reading, and writing. [Find out more about ACCESS for ELLs here.](#) Colorado mandated. Compliance with Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Time: 2 hours
- **CMAS** is a series of standardized assessments in English Language Arts (ELA), Math, Science and Social Studies which measure students' mastery of the Colorado Academic Standards. [Find out more about CMAS here.](#) Colorado mandated. Compliance with ESSA. Time: 3.25 to 9 hours in multiple units over several days (varies by content and grade)
 - * Social Studies is administered to 1/3 of Colorado Students annually, with each school administering the assessment once every three years. The Colorado Department of Education (CDE) will share the sampling plan of selected schools in early fall. Time: 65 minutes—one unit
- **SAT Suite of Assessments:** [Find out more about the SAT Suite of Assessments here.](#) Colorado mandated. Time: 4 hours.
 - o **PSAT 9 and PSAT 10** measure the skills and knowledge essential for college and career readiness and serve as a check-in on student progress.
 - o **SAT** measures the skills and knowledge that are essential for college and career readiness. This nationally recognized measure of academic readiness is used as an admission qualifier by many colleges in the United States.
- **Colorado Alternative (CoAlt) assessments** are designed for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities who meet specific criteria. [Find out more about CoAlt here.](#) Colorado mandated. Compliance with ESSA.
 - o **CoAlt English Language Arts and Math** is a computer-delivered alternate assessment. Time: 70 minutes per subject area.
 - o **CoAlt assessment for the science and social studies** assessments are given on paper. Time: 1 hour per subject area.
- **National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP):** Also known as The Nation's Report Card, NAEP has provided meaningful results to improve education policy and practice since 1969. NAEP tests reading and math. [Find out more about NAEP here.](#)
- **Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS)** compares mathematics and science achievement of U.S. students to that of students in other countries. Generally, every four years, TIMSS data has been collected from students at grades 4 and 8 since 1995. [Find out more about the TIMSS here.](#) Time: 64 Minutes

