Colorado Measures of Academic Success

Colorado Department of Education Assessment Division

COLORADO TESTS
BY COLORADO TEACHERS

Performance Levels and Policy Claims

Each performance level of the CMAS assessment has a high-level policy claim associated with it. The policy claims give a general idea of what is expected of a student at each level regardless of their grade level. **Students in the Met and Exceeded Expectation levels are considered on track to being college and career ready; high school students in the top two performance levels are considered ready.** Grade level specific descriptions are included on the Student Performance Report and in the *CMAS and CoAlt Interpretive Guide*.

Performance Level	CMAS Policy Claim
Exceeded Expectations	Students who demonstrate a distinguished command of the concepts, skills, and practices embodied by the Colorado Academic Standards assessed at their grade level. They are *academically well prepared* to engage successfully in further studies in this content area.
Met Expectations	Students who demonstrate a strong command of the concepts, skills, and practices embodied by the Colorado Academic Standards assessed at their grade level. They are *academically prepared* to engage successfully in further studies in this content area.
Approached Expectations	Students who demonstrate a moderate command of the concepts, skills, and practices embodied by the Colorado Academic Standards assessed at their grade level. They will *likely need additional academic support* to engage successfully in further studies in this content area.
Partially Met Expectations	Students who demonstrate a limited command of the concepts, skills, and practices embodied by the Colorado Academic Standards assessed at their grade level. They will *need additional academic support* to engage successfully in further studies in this content area.
Did Not Yet Meet Expectations	Students who do not yet meet academic expectations for the concepts, skills, and practices embodied by the Colorado Academic Standards assessed at their grade level. They will *need extensive academic support* to engage successfully in further studies in this content area.

Students taking CMAS assessments are given an overall scale score. Overall scale scores range from 650 to 850. Educators set cut scores for performance levels based on the specific content that students should be able to engage with at each performance level. Social studies cut scores were set and adopted by the State Board of Education in 2026 and science cut scores were set and adopted by the State Board of Education in 2022; math and ELA/CSLA cut scores were set in 2015. The range of scale scores at each performance level is provided on the following page.

CMAS Performance Level Cut Scores

Mathematics

Grade Level	Did Not Yet Meet Expectations	Partially Met Expectations	Approached Expectations	Met Expectations	Exceeded Expectations
Grade 3	650-699	700-724	725-749	750-789	790-850
Grade 4				750-795	796-850
Grade 5				750-789	790-850
Grade 6				750-787	788-850
Grade 7				750-785	786-850
Grade 8				750-800	801-850

English Language Arts

Grade Level	Did Not Yet Meet Expectations	Partially Met Expectations	Approached Expectations	Met Expectations	Exceeded Expectations
Grade 3	650-699	700-724	725-749	750-809	810-850
Grade 4				750-789	790-850
Grade 5				750-798	799-850
Grade 6				750-789	790-850
Grade 7				750-784	785-850
Grade 8				750-793	794-850

Colorado Spanish Language Arts

Grade Level	Did Not Yet Meet Expectations	Partially Met Expectations	Approached Expectations	Met Expectations	Exceeded Expectations
Grade 3	650-699	700-724	725-749	750-778	779-850
Grade 4				750-771	772-850

Science

Grade Level	Did Not Yet Meet Expectations	Partially Met Expectations	Approached Expectations	Met Expectations	Exceeded Expectations
Grade 5		650-724	725-749	750-788	789-850
Grade 8				750-796	797-850
Grade 11				750-786	787-850

Social Studies

Grade Level	Did Not Yet Meet Expectations	Partially Met Expectations	Approached Expectations	Met Expectations	Exceeded Expectations
Grade 4		650-724	725-749	750-850	
Grade 7					

ELA/CSLA Subscale Performance

The ELA/CSLA assessment includes a subscore for reading. The reading subscore has the same range and cut score for all grades. This cut score corresponds to the “Met Expectations” overall performance level.

Reading Subscore

Scale Range	Cut Score
110-190	150

Science Content Standards Performance Indicators

Content standards performance indicators are based on overall state performance. The levels are not for accountability use and are not set in relation to content or overall performance levels. The cut scores are set as one standard deviation around the state’s mean scale score and change from year to year. Students within the range have “average” performance compared to the state. Students with scores below this range scored “lower than average” in the area and students above the range scored “higher than average”.

2026 CMAS Content Standards Performance Indicator Cut Scores

Grade Level	Physical Science	Life Science	Earth and Space Science	Science and Engineering Practices
Grade 5	446-522	444-525	449-521	450-519
Grade 8	442-519	446-519	435-520	450-516
Grade 11	444-510	448-510	435-512	451-508