Superintendents/Principals to Educators about Score Reports

*Use this entire article or just portions of it to communicate with educators about the score reports.*

**Parents to receive score reports that identify a student’s academic strengths and areas for improvement**

Parents will soon receive score reports that detail how their students performed on last spring’s statewide Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS) tests in English language arts, math, science and social studies. It will be our collective job to remind parents that the tests represent just one measure of a student’s progress. Classroom grades and teacher feedback, along with the assessment scores, can provide parents with a more complete picture of their student’s academic progress. I will encourage parents to speak with their student’s teachers to gather a broader picture of their child’s achievement last year and understand the areas to focus on this coming year.

It is also important to explain that these tests, along with the PSAT and SAT, are the only common measurements for all students across Colorado and the only way parents can see how their students are doing compared to other students in the school, district and state. The CMAS score reports can help explain whether a student is meeting grade-level expectations laid out in the Colorado Academic Standards and whether he or she is on track for the next grade level.

You can use the reports to help identify student strengths and weaknesses. When talking with parents, use information from the reports as a starting point for discussing what additional supports may be available to help their students succeed as well as where to focus learning time at home.

CDE has created additional tools to help parents understand the purpose of the tests and how to interpret the score reports. Handouts in both English and Spanish include information about the tests, a guide to understanding the CMAS score reports and explainers about the SAT and PSAT. All of the resources can be found at: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/communications/resourcesforparents>.