



District Assessment Information for Parents What to Expect for the 2015-16 School Year

Overview

In 2009, The Colorado State Board of Education adopted the Colorado Academic Standards, and in 2010, incorporated the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) into Colorado's mathematics, reading, writing, and communicating standards. As with other school districts, Greeley-Evans School District 6 prepared for the implementation of the Colorado Academic Standards. In the transition, TCAP, the Transitional Colorado Assessment Program, was administered to help in the transition to the new standards and the next generation of assessments.

The new and more rigorous academic standards were adopted to ensure that all Colorado students were prepared for college and career success. The rigorous standards from pre-kindergarten through 12th grade required new authentic and relevant assessments that measured the problem-solving and critical-thinking skills students needed for success in college and in the workforce. In 2013-2014, the full implementation was achieved in the transition to the new Colorado Academic Standards. The Colorado Academic Standards set clear, consistent guidelines for what students should know and be able to do at each grade level across 10 subject areas – reading, writing and communicating, mathematics, science, social studies, comprehensive health, physical education, arts, and world languages.







District Alignment of Standards, Assessments, and Curriculum and Instruction

Beginning in 2011, Greeley-Evans School District 6 has been successfully aligning the curriculum, instruction and district assessments to the new Colorado Academic Standards. Teams of teachers in a process called Vertical Teaming, have collaborated in the content areas across the grade-levels to determine learning progression across content and grade-levels to ensure that the curricula are aligned with the expected learning outcomes.

District common assessments are an integral component of instruction. The common assessments in the content areas are developed by teacher experts in their field. The assessments are administered to all students in the grade-level content or course across the district. These assessments are connected to the curriculum units of study and address the specific content standards within the units. The assessments are used by teachers to adjust daily, weekly or unit instruction to meet the academic needs of students. The district common assessments ensure that students are proficient on the standards. Students are provided multiple opportunities to demonstrate their conceptual understanding of the standards assessed. The district common assessments provides information to students, parents, the school, and the district of how well students are progressing through the learning expectations.

District 6 Common Assessments

The use of district common assessments in the content areas is the underpinning of student academic achievement. The district common assessments target priority standards that students must demonstrate proficiency in the skills and concepts in order to be on track for college and career readiness. The chart below shows the content areas in which district common assessments have been developed.

District 6 Common Assessments			
English Language Arts 	Grades K through 8 and High School courses	Science 	Grades K-8 and High School courses
Math 	Grades K through 8 and High School courses	Social Studies 	Grades 3 through 8 and High School courses
Specials and Electives: Art, Music, PE and World Languages 	Selected Grades 3, 4, 5, 8 and High School Courses	College and Career Preparedness 	Grade 10

Federal, State and District Required Assessments

The following tables outline the required the assessments at the federal, state and district levels. Parents and guardians are encouraged to contact their principal if they would like more information on the district and state assessments.

Federal Required Assessments

Colorado Measures of Academic Success	Purpose
English Language Arts Math Science (5th and 8th) Social Studies (4th and 7th)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Gauge student achievement and growth in the schools and district ➤ Used by the state for district accreditation measures and school rating ➤ 4 – 5 hours testing time for grades 3 – 9 administered within a 3 – 4 week testing period
ACCESS for ELLs (English Learners)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Gauge English learners growth and attainment toward full English proficiency in the academic disciplines ➤ 4 hours of testing time for grades K – 12 administered within a 4-week testing period

State Required Assessments

READ ACT: Selected DIBELS	Purpose
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Gauge students’ reading skills, fluency and comprehension in grades K- 5 ➤ Use to monitor the progress of students’ reading skills, fluency, and comprehension ➤ Administered 3 times a year – 1- 5 minutes for each student
DIBELS Deep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Use to diagnose gaps in foundational reading skills in students who have significant reading deficiencies in grades K-3
School Readiness: Teaching Strategies GOLD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Use observations as an assessment tool for kindergarten children to capture comprehensive information about children’s social, emotional, and physical development and learning.
College and Career Preparatory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Used to identify the skills and knowledge for college and workforce preparedness of 10th grade students ➤ Predictive of performance on the ACT for college and career readiness ➤ 4 hours of testing time for grade 10
College and Career Readiness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Used to identify the skills and knowledge for college and career readiness of 11th grade students ➤ Predictive of students’ success in the first year of college or workforce entry ➤ 4 hours of testing time for grade 11

District Required Assessments

Common Unit of Study Assessments	Purpose
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Monitor progress with respect to specifically targeted standards ➤ Used to adjust instruction to meet the academic needs of students ➤ 30 – 50 minutes testing time grades 2-12 in each unit of study