



Understanding the Transition Colorado Assessment Program (TCAP)

Overview of the TCAP

The Transition Colorado Assessment Program (TCAP) began in the 2011-2012 school year to support the implementation of the Colorado Achievement Plan for Kids (CAP4K) standards update, a process started in 2010. The CAP4K strives to revise and update Colorado Academic Standards to what policymakers and educators believe are the most up-to-date practices for Colorado students in the 21st century. Among other things, the revision includes revised standards for early childhood and high school grades, including work readiness. Aside from the test being correlated to revised standards, the TCAP largely operates like the previous assessment program, Colorado Assessment Program. The program will include assessments for grades 3-10, in math, reading, writing, and science in grades 5, 8, and 10 (students in 11th grade take the college preparatory ACT test in lieu of the state assessment). Looking ahead the new assessment will include a test in social studies at least once at the elementary, junior high and high school levels, and will be delivered online as much as possible. The new Colorado Assessment program will not be implemented until 2014; until then the TCAP will serve as the primary assessment for student progress.

Purpose of the TCAP

The purpose of the TCAP is to continue to assess and understand student progress while preparing for the new assessment system, which will not be in effect until 2014. The TCAP is Colorado's official state assessment, replacing the Colorado Student Assessment Program (CSAP), and informs federal accountability programs, in addition to assessing students understanding and learning of academic standards.

Who Takes the TCAP?

Colorado law requires that all students take the state level assessment tests for the grade in which they are enrolled, the only exception being if the student is taking the CoAlt (Colorado Alternate), which is a modified version of the state standardized test available to students who cannot take the TCAP with reasonable accommodation. Students who are English Language Learners (ELLs) must take the TCAP in addition to the Colorado English Language Acquisition Proficiency Assessment (CELAppro). ELLs in the 3rd and 4th grades may receive test instruction in Spanish in certain cases.

What is a Passing Score?

The following scoring rubric details the passing scale scores for each of the required assessment tests. Note that the same scoring rubric is used for the CSAP and TCAP.

Content Area	Grade	Unsatisfactory	Partially Proficient	Proficient	Advanced
Reading	3	150-465	466-525	526-655	656-795
	4	180-516	517-571	572-670	671-940
	5	220-537	538-587	588-690	691-955
	6	260-542	543-599	600-695	696-970
	7	300-566	567-619	620-715	716-980
	8	330-577	578-631	632-723	724-990
	9	350-584	585-641	642-738	739-995
	10	370-606	607-662	663-746	747-999
Spanish Reading	3	300-481	482-512	513-575	576-740
	4	300-505	506-536	537-591	592-790
Writing	3	150-392	393-464	465-532	533-680
	4	190-413	414-484	485-553	554-730
	5	220-417	418-497	498-575	576-780
	6	230-422	423-512	513-599	600-840
	7	240-429	430-538	539-628	629-890
	8	250-433	434-555	556-650	651-910
	9	260-435	436-562	563-671	672-930
	10	270-458	459-577	578-689	690-950
Spanish Writing	3	250-447	448-498	499-574	575-750
	4	300-495	496-531	532-595	596-790
Mathematics	3	150-334	335-418	419-509	510-700
	4	180-382	383-454	455-537	538-780
	5	220-421	422-493	494-561	562-800
	6	240-453	454-519	520-588	589-830
	7	280-486	487-558	559-613	614-860
	8	310-520	521-576	577-627	628-890
	9	340-547	548-601	602-651	652-920
	10	370-561	562-626	627-691	692-950
Science	5	300-428	429-507	508-568	569-900
	8	300-458	459-506	507-578	579-900
	10	300-468	469-506	507-580	581-900

Understanding the TCAP

The TCAP represents a combination of assessing the previous Colorado state standards, and new standards currently being implemented. Because the new curriculum plan is being implemented in steps, so the TCAP adapts its content to support the transitional curriculum.

Get Your Child Ready for the TCAP

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