

# SUPPORTING Attainment of Educational Goals

## Overview of Colorado's Assessments

The power of Colorado's education improvement efforts lies in having a comprehensive educational system consisting of relevant and rigorous standards, aligned and meaningful assessments, excellent teachers and school leaders, and high-performing schools and districts. All aspects of the system are grounded in continuously improving student learning and preparing students to succeed in an increasingly competitive workforce.

### The Role of Assessments

The Colorado Academic Standards provide clear expectations of what students need to know and be able to do at the end of each grade level to graduate college and career ready. Meaningful, timely and precise measures of student learning – assessments - provide critical data and feedback to determine whether educational goals are being met. Colorado assessments are changing in order to accurately assess student mastery relative to the Colorado Academic Standards.

### Science and Social Studies Summative Assessments

Colorado is developing new science and social studies assessments which will be administered for the first time in 2014. These assessments will be computer-based and will be designed to measure the Colorado Academic Standards, adopted in 2009. The science assessments will be administered in grades 5, 8, and once in high school and the social studies assessments will be administered in grades 4, 7 and once in high school.

### Reading, Writing (English Language Arts) and Mathematics Summative Assessments

Colorado is working with a twenty-three state assessment consortium, Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC), to build next generation English language arts and mathematics assessments. The PARCC states include: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma,

### Assessment Timeline

Over the next couple of years, Colorado will be implementing new English language proficiency, science, social studies, English language arts (reading and writing) and mathematics assessments.

#### 2013

- TCAP and CoAlt (alternate assessment) continue
- ACT continues
- First year of ACCESS (English language proficiency assessment)

#### 2014

- TCAP and CoAlt Reading, Writing and Math continue
- First year of new social studies and science assessments
- ACT continues
- ACCESS continues

#### 2015

- First year of English language arts and mathematics assessments (PARCC) will be operational
- Second year of new social studies and science assessments
- ACT continues
- ACCESS continues

Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Tennessee.

The consortium is developing computer-based English language arts and mathematics assessments in grades 3 - 8. There will also be English language arts assessments in grades 9-11 and three end-of-course mathematics assessments in high school. The assessments will be administered for the first time in the spring of 2015. Until then the Transitional Colorado Assessment Program (TCAP) will continue to be administered to measure student achievement in reading, writing and math.

### **Alternate Assessments**

---

New science and social studies alternate assessments will be administered in 2014 and will be designed to measure the Extended Evidence Outcomes of the Colorado Academic Standards. Consistent with the summative assessment design, the alternate assessments will be administered in grades 5, 8 and once in high school in science and the social studies alternate assessments will be administered in grades 4, 7 and once in high school. New alternate assessments in English language arts and mathematics will also need to be administered in 2015. Colorado is investigating multi-state options for these.

### **English Language Proficiency Assessments**

---

Colorado will administer the World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA) exam, ACCESS, to measure student acquisition of the Colorado English Language Proficiency (CELP) standards. ACCESS will be administered for the first time in the 2012-2013 school year.

### **Where can I learn more?**

The CDE website ([www.cde.state.co.us](http://www.cde.state.co.us)) has a variety of resources for those wishing to learn more.

- **Assessment:** [www.cde.state.co.us/Assessment](http://www.cde.state.co.us/Assessment)

The PARCC website (<http://parconline.org>) has additional information on the new English language arts and mathematics assessments.

### **The Colorado Department of Education**

**CONNECTING** . . . *rigorous academic standards . . . meaningful assessments . . .*  
*engaging learning options . . . excellent educators . . . for STUDENT SUCCESS*