



Performance Levels and Policy Claims

Each Performance Level of the CMAS assessment has a high level policy claim associated with it. This policy claim gives a general idea of what is expected of a student at each level regardless of their grade level. **The Strong and Distinguished Command levels are on track for College and Career Readiness.** Grade level specific descriptions are included on the Student Performance Report and in the Interpretive Guide.

CMAS Performance Levels and Policy Claims	
Distinguished Command	Students performing at this level demonstrate a distinguished command of the concepts, skills, and practices embodied by the Colorado Academic Standards for Science or Social Studies assessed at their grade level. They are <i>academically well prepared</i> to engage successfully in further studies in this content area.
Strong Command	Students performing at this level demonstrate a strong command of the concepts, skills, and practices embodied by the Colorado Academic Standards for Science or Social Studies assessed at their grade level. They are <i>academically prepared</i> to engage successfully in further studies in this content area.
Moderate Command	Students performing at this level demonstrate a moderate command of the concepts, skills, and practices embodied by the Colorado Academic Standards for Science or Social Studies assessed at their grade level. They will <i>likely need academic support</i> to engage successfully in further studies in this content area.
Limited Command	Students performing at this level demonstrate a limited command of the concepts, skills, and practices embodied by the Colorado Academic Standards for Science or Social Studies assessed at their grade level. They will <i>likely need extensive academic support</i> to engage successfully in further studies in this content area.

Cut Scores

Overall Performance Level

Students taking the CMAS Science and Social Studies assessments are given an overall scale score that ranges from 300-900. Colorado educators set cut scores for each performance level based on the specific content that students should be able to engage with at each Performance Level. The cut scores were then adopted by the State Board of Education in August, 2014. The range of scale scores at each performance level is provided below.

CMAS Performance Level Cut Scores				
Grade Level	Limited Command	Moderate Command	Strong Command	Distinguished Command
Social Studies				
Grade 4	300-556	557-698	699-792	793-900
Grade 7	300-591	592-700	701-769	770-900
Science				
Grade 5	300-545	546-649	650-770	771-900
Grade 8	300-555	556-651	652-784	785-900



Content Standards Performance Indicators

At the Content Standards level there are Performance Indicators based on the overall state performance. These levels are not for accountability use and are not set in relation to the content or the Overall Performance Levels. The cut scores are set using one standard deviation around the mean scale score for the state. They will change from year to year. Students within this range have “Typical” performance for the state. Students with scores below this range have a “Potential Relative Weakness” in this area and students above the range have a “Potential Relative Strength”.

2015 CMAS Content Standards Performance Indicators Cut Scores				
Grade Level	History/ Physical Science	Geography/ Life Science	Economics/ Earth Systems Science	Civics/ Scientific Inquiry and Nature of Science
Social Studies				
Grade 4	470-736	472-738	465-742	470-737
Grade 7	478-720	480-721	463-735	478-723
Science				
Grade 5	471-721	485-716	483-717	482-716
Grade 8	463-705	461-707	463-707	460-709

2014 CMAS Content Standards Performance Indicators Cut Scores				
Grade Level	History/ Physical Science	Geography/ Life Science	Economics/ Earth Systems Science	Civics/ Scientific Inquiry and Nature of Science
Social Studies				
Grade 4	473-720	473-719	452-726	470-718
Grade 7	473-717	477-718	464-727	468-718
Science				
Grade 5	478-718	489-716	488-716	485-714
Grade 8	481-715	477-716	481-717	480-718