



Division of the Superintendent

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Dear APS Parents and Guardians,

The foundation of our district's strategic plan, *APS 2020: Shaping the Future*, is our community's core beliefs. As we return from winter break and begin the second semester, I would like to reflect on some of these core beliefs:

- Families are our partners in education.
- Students, families, staff and community members share the responsibility for student achievement.
- Students take an active and ongoing responsibility for their learning.

These core beliefs highlight the importance of why our partnership with you is vital in achieving our community's vision that every student shapes a successful future. With this in mind, I would like to remind you that many of our students will participate in state testing this spring. Participation is important because results help students, parents and teachers understand whether students have mastered the content they need to know by the end of the school year to be on track for college and career success. We are asking for your help in preparing our students to do their very best on these upcoming assessments.

Please check individual school calendars for specific assessment schedules.

WIDA ACCESS

Beginning this month, all English Language Learner (ELL) students will take the WIDA ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Summative Assessment. WIDA ACCESS measures a student's progress in acquiring academic English. Please note that there is no opt out option for these tests.

Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening (grades K-12, ELL only)

- Jan. 8 – Feb. 9, 2018

CMAS

Colorado's assessment system is called the Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS). In 2009, Colorado implemented more rigorous academic standards known as the Colorado Academic Standards (CAS). The new standards set clear, consistent guidelines for what students should know and be able to do at all grade levels. To accurately measure student mastery of these skills and expectations, Colorado adopted CMAS.

The Dynamic Learning Maps Alternate Assessment System (DLM), administered to grades 3-11, is an instructionally-relevant system that supports student learning and measures what students with significant cognitive disabilities know and can do. A student's IEP team makes the determination if a student qualifies for the alternate assessment following criteria provided by the Colorado Department of Education Exceptional Student Services Unit.

English Language Arts and Math (grades 3-8) and DLM (grades 3-11)

- March 19-23, 2018
- April 2-27, 2018

Science and Co-Alt (grades 5, 8 and 11), Social Studies and Co-Alt (samples of grades 4, 7 and 11)

- April 9-27, 2018

PSAT and SAT Exams

APS freshmen and sophomores will take the Colorado PSAT and juniors will take the Colorado SAT. College Board partners use information from these test scores to expand access to various scholarships. We encourage students and parents to explore an online help tool, Khan Academy, to prepare for these tests. Khan Academy gives students free personalized practice, including study and test-taking tips, six official full-length practice tests and a tailored practice plan. Please visit khanacademy.org.

PSAT (grades 9-10)

- April 10 or April 11 OR April 12, 2018
- Accommodations: April 10-17, 2018
- Make-up testing window: April 11-20, 2018

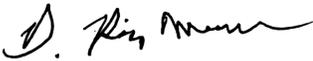
SAT (grade 11)

- April 10, 2018
- Accommodations: April 10-13, 2018
- Make-up test date: April 24, 2018

Participation Guidelines

While we encourage participation from all students in state assessments, state law allows parents to excuse their child from taking the tests. If a parent or guardian wants to excuse his or her child from participating, the parent/guardian must do so on behalf of the student.

Included with this letter, you will find our assessment calendar and a FAQ that contains useful information. I encourage you to read through it carefully. Thank you for your support in helping every APS student shape a successful future.



Rico Munn
Superintendent