



SCHOOL DISTRICT 27J

“Reaching Out In All Directions”

18551 East 160th Avenue
Brighton, CO 80601-3295
(303) 655-2900 FAX (303) 655-2870
Chris Fiedler, Ed.D., Superintendent

Dear School District 27J Families,

In April, the Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS) assessments will be administered to students in Grades 3-8 and 11 along with the PSAT and SAT assessments to students in grade 9-11. [The general School District 27J assessment calendar and grade to assessment alignment can be accessed through this link.](#) Please visit school websites for specific school schedules and information. [Use this link through the Colorado Department of Education to learn more about PSAT and SAT in Colorado.](#)

Each year, parents consider whether or not to have their child participate in state assessments. Prior to the assessment window, we ask that you consider the following information as part of your decision process. School District 27J is in the business of educating students. We are preparing our students to have the knowledge and skills for their future college and career choices. The results from the CMAS, PSAT, and SAT assessments provide:

- Valuable information about student achievement toward grade level expectations
- Evidence of student growth from one school year to the next
- Evidence of the skills and competencies necessary for college and career readiness

The results of the assessment are utilized by the School District 27J Community in the following ways:

- Students and parents can identify areas of strength and improvement
- High School students can use the PSAT and SAT results to support decisions around high school course selections including advanced coursework options
- Teachers make decisions to better support individual students during instruction
- District-level administration utilizes the results to determine the effectiveness of curriculum and instructional practices which support decisions that are made with regard to professional development and the use of resources.

Along with the student achievement and growth results, student participation in the CMAS, PSAT, and SAT assessments is also included in school and district performance frameworks. Assessment participation lower than 95% results in a lower performance rating by one category. It is our goal to minimally meet the 95% participation rate to support the most accurate rating of our schools and district. We are currently rated “Improvement” and on the way to “Performance”.

As the assessment window approaches, schools are in process of refining details associated with implementing assessment schedules. The planning and preparation efforts of school administration, teachers, and staff along with the support that you provide will ensure that our students have a positive testing experience which are reflected in the results of the assessments.

Thank you in advance for your support! If you have additional questions, please contact the School Assessment Coordinator at your child’s school.

Karla Reider
Instructional Specialist for Assessment and Data

As provided by Colorado State Law, parents are allowed to excuse their child from taking CMAS and state college preparatory and college admissions assessments. If you choose to excuse your child from



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participating in state assessments, please provide that information in writing or via email to the School Assessment Coordinator at your child’s school as soon as possible. Please be sure to include which assessment(s) you are excusing your child from participating in as well as whether your child will be in attendance at school on assessment days. As you make the decision about your child’s attendance on assessment days, please keep in mind staff focus will be on supporting students who are taking the assessments while also considering the assessment schedule, the testing environment that needs to be maintained for students who are participating, as well as learning opportunities that are part of the schedule for the day. If you choose to keep your child at home, the absence will be excused. To learn more about your child’s experience on test days if they are not taking the assessment, please contact the School Assessment Coordinator.