Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS)
Parent Information Letter

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to share the purposes of state assessments as they relate to your student's educational program. The Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS) is the name of the state's English language arts, mathematics, science and social studies assessments. The primary purpose of the assessment program is to determine the level at which Colorado students meet the Colorado Academic Standards in the content areas assessed. The data will be used to keep abreast of individual student, school, and district progress toward attaining higher student achievement levels. The fact that CMAS is based on the Colorado Academic Standards will ensure that all districts are held to the same challenging standards that Coloradans expect for their students regardless of whether they live in urban, suburban, or rural areas.

Purposes of the CMAS

The CMAS program serves the following main purposes:

1. To help each student and his or her family know how the student is performing in meeting the academic standards and how they compare to their peers, and to know how the student has grown over time academically.
2. To enable teachers to see how their students are performing against the academic standards and identify areas they may need to adjust in their practice for the future.
3. To provide school and district leaders, the state, policymakers, and the public with information on how well the educational system is meeting the goals of helping every child attain academic proficiency.

Administration of CMAS

CMAS will be administered in a standardized manner through a secure electronic online process supervised by CMAS Test Administrators. Students will have access to the internet in a manner that will only allow them to participate in the CMAS assessments.

Parental Exemption

Colorado law requires all students to take the assessments: **"Every student enrolled in a public school shall be required to take the (state) assessments (in the content areas and grades administered)."** - Colorado Revised Statutes, Section 22-7-409(1.2)(d)(I)(A). This means that every student, regardless of language background or ability, must be provided the opportunity to demonstrate their content knowledge on state assessments. However, in 2015 Colorado state legislature passed a law ***HB 15-1323 requiring districts to develop policies allowing parents to excuse their student from participating on one or more state assessments. Parents choosing to excuse their student from participation in one or more state assessments must submit their request in writing to the school principal. There must be an excusal for each child that you are requesting exemption. Also, this should be submitted at the earliest possible date in the school year and will be valid for one school year.*** **Requests for exemption from state assessments in subsequent school years require a new written request.**

I have read the above information about CMAS/COBALT and I am choosing to exempt my child from participating in the following state assessments this school year. Please check ALL that apply.

_____ CMAS: Science **_____ CMAS: Social Studies** **_____ CMAS: ELA** **_____CMAS: Math**

Student Name	Grade	Parent/Guardian Signature
Name of School	Date	School Principal Signature