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A closer look at CSAP

Compiled by Sarah Jones
Staff Writer

The Colorado Student Assessment Program (CSAP) is a snapshot of student performance based on the four categories of writing, science, reading and math. The reading, writing and math portions are given to students in grades 3-10 and the science portion is given to students in grades 5, 8 and 10. Districts receive a rating of unsatisfactory, partially proficient, proficient or advanced based on overall performance.

This is the final year that the CSAP test will be administered to students. It will be replaced by a Transitional Colorado Assessment Program (TCAP) which will be replaced by a new test that will align with the new Colorado education standards that will be put in place over the next couple of years.

For a breakdown of individual school CSAP scores visit the Colorado Board of Education's website at www.cde.state.co.us.

Statewide results

The statewide results for the CSAP showed stagnant numbers overall.

The state's students showed a decrease in proficient and

advanced reading scores, with the exception of third grade, which saw an increase of three points for this year's testing, the Colorado Board of Education reported. Being proficient means understanding the content at grade level, and advanced is understanding the content beyond the child's grade level.

In writing, there was an increase for students tested in grades third through seventh and then ninth grade. Eighth grade declined and tenth grade students remained the same, according to CDE.

In the math category, the results showed an overall increase in the percent of proficient or advanced in grades fourth through eighth and tenth grades. Math performance declined for students in third and ninth grades.

For students tested in science, there was a decline in both eighth and tenth grades and decline in fifth grade, when compared with the 2010 numbers.

Adams 12

Adams District 12 saw positive results for the 2011 CSAP results, particularly in mathematics.

According to Superintendent Chris Gdowski, the district's elementary and middle

school students "met or exceeded the state average for proficient and advanced on the 2011 Math CSAP in three of six grade levels."

"Our CSAP results reflect areas of strong performance and areas we're targeting for improvement," he said.

According to Gdowski, the district's goal is to meet or exceed the state's proficiency average in all four testing areas by 2015.

Mapleton

The Mapleton school district has seen increasing results since their reformation from traditional schools six years ago.

"The consistently improving results we are seeing are a credit to the work teachers, staff and students are doing on a daily basis in Mapleton. It means we are implementing the right curriculum in a consistent way and it's working for our kids," said Superintendent Charlotte Ciancio.

Overall as a district, Mapleton saw an increase in two of the four categories from the testing in 2010 to 2011.

"We still have a long way to go to improve student achievement. But, the strong growth we're seeing affirms that we're continuing to do the right things."

CSAP 2011 Results					
	Colorado	Adams District 12	Adams District 50	Mapleton Schools	JeffCo Schools
Math	55.73%	55.01%	28.85%	34.72%	62.67%
Writing	55.31%	50.10%	25%	36.33%	61.75%
Reading	67.91%	64.12%	38.78%	49.29%	75.34%
Science	47.84%	44.63%	18.36%	26.56%	57.58%

* Percentages reflect students that tested proficient or advanced by year. All numbers were accurate as of Wednesday, Aug. 10.

Adams District 12 CSAP Results				
	Colorado 2011	Adams 12 2011	Adams 12 2010	Adams 12 2009
Math	55.73%	55.01%	49.76%	52.81%
Writing	55.31%	50.10%	43.57%	48.38%
Reading	67.91%	64.12%	59.71%	64.67%
Science	47.84%	44.63%	44.26%	44.22%

*Proficient and advanced by year for all categories

Mapleton 1 CSAP Results				
	Colorado 2011	Mapleton 2011	Mapleton 2010	Mapleton 2009
Math	55.73%	34.72%	32.46%	30.09%
Writing	55.31%	33.63%	31.45%	32.32%
Reading	67.91%	49.29%	47.40%	44.24%
Science	47.84%	26.56%	19.02%	22.66%

*Proficient and advanced by year for all categories