



Academy of Arts and Knowledge

Creating an environment in which all students can reach their full potential.

4800 Wheaton Dr. Fort Collins, CO 80525 Phone (970) 2226-2800 Fax (970) 316-6754

The Academy of Arts & Knowledge recognizes that state and federal law requires its students to take the CMAS (English language arts, math, science and social studies) standardized assessments in grades third through fifth. AAK will administer ACCESS for all qualifying students. Accordingly, AAK shall administer standardized assessments pursuant to these state and federal legal requirements.

State law also requires the school to adopt policies and/or procedures concerning the use of pencil and paper on the computerized portion of state assessments; parent requests to excuse their children from taking state assessments; and, the school's assessment calendar. This policy and its accompanying regulation represent the school's processes to address these requirements.

AAK will utilize the online version for CMAS ELA, math, science, and social studies assessments in grades third, fourth, and fifth. AAK will utilize the online version of the WIDA ACCESS assessment. The technological capacity and resources of AAK are now compatible with the computerized format at this time. Should this situation change in the future, this policy will be updated accordingly.

For students with disabilities, the use of pencil and paper or a computer to complete a state assessment shall be determined by the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) team or Section 504 team, in accordance with applicable law.

Also included are the Colorado Alternate Assessment (CoAlt) which covers ELA, math, science, and social studies. This is administered to students with significant cognitive disabilities who are instructed and assessed on alternate achievement standards. 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 Services Unit via the eligibility worksheet. For students with disabilities, the use of pencil and paper instead of a computer to complete a state assessment shall be determined by the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) team or Section 504 team, in accordance with applicable law.

In accordance with state law and this policy's accompanying regulation, the school shall develop an assessment calendar and related information for parents/guardians on an annual basis to inform them about the state and school assessments that the school plans to administer during the school year. This information shall also be posted on the school's website. At a minimum,



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the school assessment calendar shall include:

- An estimate of the testing hours required on each testing day;
- Whether the assessments are required by federal and/or state law or was selected by the school;
- The purpose of the assessment;
- The manner in which the assessment results will be used by the school and by the Colorado Department of Education (if applicable).

AAK will strongly encourage families to participate in all school assessments as part of school-wide expectations. A parent/guardian who wishes to exempt his or her child from CMAS assessment may request that his or her child be exempt from participating in one or more state assessments and by following these guidelines:

- The request for exemption must be submitted in writing to the Principal. The request forms are available at the front office.
- The parent/guardian will not be required to state the reason for asking for the exemption unless they wish to.
- The request for exemption may apply to all or specific state assessments administered to the student during the school year.
- A request for exemption will be valid for one school year. Requests for exemption from state assessments in subsequent school years require a new written request.
- Parents/guardians are encouraged to submit their requests for exemption at the earliest possible date each school year so that the school may plan accordingly.

In accordance with state law, the school shall not impose a negative consequence upon a student whose parent/guardian has requested an exemption from a state assessment. This policy's exemption process shall apply only to state assessments and shall not apply to school or classroom assessments and will be reviewed annually by our School Accountability Committee (SAC).