



Weld RE-9 School District

Highland Schools 210 W. First Street P.O. Box 1390 Ault, Colorado 80610 (970) 834-1345

HB 15-1323 requires that school districts notify parents of the following:

- Weld RE9 will administer the CMAS English/Language Arts (ELA) & Math assessments (grades 3-8) as well as the Colorado Science assessment (grades 5, 8 and 11) this spring. We will also be administering the PSAT to freshmen and sophomores as well as the SAT to juniors. The WIDA assessment has been administered to ELL students.
 - CMAS ELA and Math assessments, as well as the WIDA assessment, are required to be administered by Federal Law
 - CMAS science and social studies, as well as the PSAT 9, PSAT 10 and SAT, are required by Colorado Law.
- Each CMAS assessed content area will take approximately six hours to complete. This includes actual testing time as well pre and post assessment procedures.
- All PSAT and SAT assessments are approximately three hours in length.
- All assessments are designed to measure student's knowledge and understanding of the Colorado Academic Standards, as well as student's level of college and career readiness.
- The Weld RE9 School District uses the results of all assessments for the following reasons:
 - Achievement comparison to school districts with similar demographics as well the state as a whole.
 - To determine areas of strength and areas of need.
 - As a portion of teacher's evaluation.
 - To measure student's longitudinal growth.
 - Results are a significant factor in school and district accreditation as well as school improvement planning.
- HB 15-1323 provides parents the option to opt their child out of any or all of the above listed standardized assessments.
 - Students will not be penalized, or lose opportunity, if parents opt their child(ren) out.
 - It is unethical for the School District to encourage parents to opt their child(ren) out of standardized testing.
 - It is also unethical for the School District to pressure students and parents to participate in standardized testing.

If considering opting your son or daughter out, please sign and return the form at the end of this document. Opt-out forms are also available at building offices and can also be printed from the District website.

Assessment	CMAS English Language Arts & Math
Why do we give this assessment?	Administration of this assessment is required by federal and state law for all students grades 3-8.
Grade Level(s) Assessed	Grades 3-8
Administration Time	Approximately 8 hours spread out over a calendar week. There are six test sessions; each session is between 50 and 90 minutes
Availability of Results	Individual student results are typically available in mid-August the following school year. School and District level results are generally available in late-August the following school year.
District Use of Data	The data received is used primarily for information and comparison purposes. The data is not received early enough, nor is the data detailed enough to assist in class placement and/or instructional decisions. The data does allow for comparison with other school districts across the state and nation. Data is used by the District for the purpose GT identification.
Weld RE9 Recommendation	Per State Statute, the School District is not permitted to make a recommendation one way or the other; only to provide parents with the information above.

Assessment	CMAS Science
Why do we give this assessment?	Federal Law requires that a science assessment be administered once in elementary school, once in middle school, and once in high school.
Grade Level(s) Assessed	Science: Grades 5, 8, & 11
Administration Time	Approximately three one hour sessions
Availability of Results	Individual student results are typically available in mid-August the following school year. School and District level results are generally available in late-August the following school year.
District Use of Data	The data received is used primarily for information and comparison purposes. The data is not received early enough, nor is the data detailed enough to assist in class placement and/or instructional decisions. The data does allow for comparison with other school districts across the state. Data is used by the District for the purpose GT identification.
Weld RE9 Recommendation	Per State Statute, the School District is not permitted to make a recommendation one way or the other; only to provide parents with the information above.

Assessment	PSAT 9
Why do we give this assessment?	Administration of this assessment is required by Colorado Statute
Grade Level(s) Assessed	Grades 9
Administration Time	Approximately three hours
Availability of Results	Typically takes three months to get assessment results.
District Use of Data	There are multiple programs available to the District that allow for student results to be used to develop individualized curriculum.
Weld RE9 Recommendation	Per State Statute, the School District is not permitted to make a recommendation one way or the other; only to provide parents with the information above.

Assessment	PSAT 10
Why do we give this assessment?	Administration of this assessment is required by Colorado Statute
Grade Level(s) Assessed	Grade 10
Administration Time	Approximately three hours
Availability of Results	Typically takes about three months
District Use of Data	There are multiple programs available to the district that allow for student results to be used to develop individualized curriculum. Student scores are very valuable for future college and/or career planning.
Weld RE9 Recommendation	Per State Statute, the School District is not permitted to make a recommendation one way or the other; only to provide parents with the information above.

Assessment	SAT
Why do we give this assessment?	Administration of this assessment is required by Colorado Statute
Grade Level(s) Assessed	Grade 11
Administration Time	Approximately three hours
Availability of Results	Typically takes about three months to get assessment results
District Use of Data	Student scores are essential for college admission and/or career readiness and placement programs.
Weld RE9 Recommendation	Per State Statute, the School District is not permitted to make a recommendation one way or the other; only to provide parents with the information above.

****Weld RE9 School District administers the NWEA MAPS Assessment to all students grades K-11. The MAPS assessment is not required by any legislative body; rather it is part of the instructional plan in the District. This is the best assessment we are aware of to monitor student progress, give instant results, drive instructional decisions, and assist in class placement. MAPS is critical for us to make good instructional decisions for your child(ren).**

****Students will not be penalized in any way for either participating or not participating in state assessments. Decisions will be made at the building level regarding school day schedules during the assessment window. The decision will be primarily based on the number of participating students versus the number of students not participating.**



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Weld RE-9 Standardized Testing Parent Opt-out Form

As a parent/guardian, I understand I have the option to opt my child(ren) out of State assessments. By submitting this form, I am exercising this option.

I have decided to opt my child out of the following assessment(s):

Please select all that apply

- CMAS English Language Arts Assessment (Grades 3-8)
- CMAS Math Assessment (Grades 3-8)
- CMAS Science Assessment (5th, 8th, and 11th Grade)
- PSAT 9
- PSAT 10
- SAT (Juniors)
- Colorado Alternate Assessments (CoAlt)

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Child's Name: _____

Child's Grade: _____