



A complete listing of the indicators as well as other informative updates and publications are available on the CDE website.:

<http://www.cde.state.co.us>

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# The Colorado Student Assessment Program- Alternate

# CSAP-A

# CSAP and CSAP-A

The Colorado Student Assessment Program (**CSAP**) is designed to provide a picture of how students in the state of Colorado are progressing toward meeting academic standards, and how schools are doing to ensure learning success of students.

There are a few students with an Individual Education Program (IEP) who will not be able to take the general CSAP because of the nature and intensity of their disability. These students need a different way to show what they know and can do. The Colorado Student Assessment Program-Alternate, (**CSAP-A**), was developed to measure progress for students who are beginning to demonstrate foundational skills of content standards.

The first CSAP-A will be administered to eligible 4th grade students in March 2001. Thereafter, the **CSAP-A** will be rolled-out for other grades and content areas. The 4th grade CSAP-A is intended to provide a picture of the student's emerging reading and writing skills.

The **CSAP-A** is not a paper and pencil test. Student performance is observed and documented during literacy based activities. The activities include attending to a story and answering questions for understanding, going to the library, reading with a teacher or peer, and creating/writing a story.

The assessment measures how **independently** the student performs tasks (indicators) within the activity.

The information is intended to be helpful to educators and families to evaluate the student's current progress toward expanded reading and writing benchmarks. In addition, the information will assist educators and families in planning curriculum to meet standards.

The Individual Education Program (IEP) team makes decisions about whether a student should take the CSAP or the CSAP-A. Decisions are based on a student's individual needs, not a disability category, expected performance, or where the student receives services.

Remember, the CSAP-A assesses **emerging** literacy skills. Some of the more advanced indicators (tasks) the CSAP-A measures at the 4th grade include:

- Sequence events in the story
- Predict what will happen next
- Recognize printed words, including name, familiar objects and people.
- Use simple sound/letter association to decode unfamiliar words
- Use beginning spelling
- Use lower and uppercase letters.

If a student can already perform these skills, then the general CSAP will be the most appropriate assessment.

For more information on CSAP, standards, benchmarks and accommodations see the brochure entitled: "**Students with Special Needs and the Colorado Student Assessment Program**," available from the Colorado Department of Education, Special Education Services Unit (also available in Spanish).

