

Chino Valley Unified students outperform state in new test

Although it's the first year they have taken the exam, Chino Valley Unified School District students overall outperformed the state in every grade level tested on the new California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress.

The test, known by the acronym CAASPP, was taken by third through eighth graders and 11th graders last spring. The new English language arts/literacy and mathematics computer-based tests replace the former paper-based test for the same subjects.

What are the top 10 things parents should know about the new California Assessments? See below.

CVUSD parents should receive their child's results soon as the last of the scores were mailed out Friday, Oct. 2.

The new exams are part of California's comprehensive plan to support high-quality learning at every school. They are based on California's new, more challenging academic standards, which are designed to help students think critically, and graduate prepared for college and careers.

Students could score at one of four levels: Exceeded, Standard Met, Standard Nearly Met, and Standard Not Met. One of the benefits of the exam is that it allows individual student scores to be tracked as students move on to higher grade levels, according to Julian Rodriguez, Director of Assessment and Instructional Technology.

Students in fifth, eighth, and 10th grades also took a science test, but it was scored in levels used in the previous statewide test known as STAR. Those are: Advanced, Proficient, Basic, Below Basic, and Far Below Basic.

English language arts/literacy

In English language arts/literacy, 46% of the CVUSD third graders tested met or exceeded the standards set. In comparison, only 38% of third graders statewide scored the same.

Fifty percent of CVUSD fourth graders met or exceeded the standards, while 40% of fourth graders statewide did the same.

Fifty-six percent of CVUSD fifth graders scored in the top two tiers, while 44% of fifth graders statewide scored in those tiers.

Fifty-nine percent of CVUSD sixth graders met or exceeded the standards, while 43% of sixth graders statewide did the same.

Fifty-four percent of CVUSD seventh graders scored in the top two tiers, while 44% of seventh graders statewide scored in those tiers.

Fifty-seven percent of CVUSD eighth graders met or exceeded state standards, but only 45% of eighth graders statewide did the same.

In 11th grade, 65% of CVUSD students tested met or exceeded standards. Statewide, only 56% of the 11th graders scored in the top two levels.

Mathematics

In mathematics, 55% of the CVUSD third graders tested met or exceeded the standards set. In comparison, only 40% of third graders statewide scored the same.

Forty-six percent of CVUSD fourth graders met or exceeded the standards, while 35% of fourth graders statewide did the same.

Thirty-seven percent of CVUSD fifth graders scored in the top two tiers, while 30% of their counterparts statewide scored in those tiers.

Forty-two percent of CVUSD sixth graders met or exceeded the standards, while 33% of sixth graders statewide did the same.

Forty-one percent of CVUSD seventh graders scored in the top two tiers, while 34% of seventh graders statewide scored in those tiers.

Forty-three percent of CVUSD eighth graders met or exceeded state standards, but only 33% of eighth graders statewide did the same.

In 11th grade, 35% of CVUSD students tested met or exceeded standards. Statewide, only 29% of the 11th graders scored in the top two levels.

Science

In the science test taken last spring, 64% of the CVUSD fifth graders tested scored in the top advanced and proficient levels. In comparison, only 55% of the fifth graders statewide scored in those levels. Seventy-two percent of CVUSD eighth graders scored in the top two tiers, while 64% of eighth graders statewide did the same. Fifty-eight percent of CVUSD 10th graders scored in the advanced and proficient level, while only 53% of the 10th graders statewide did the same.

Individual student score reports have been released by the state and are currently being mailed to student's homes.

"The results, are once again, a testament to our students and teachers and parents, absolutely," said Superintendent Wayne M. Joseph at the Sept. 17 Board of Education meeting.

Top 10 things parents should know about the new California Assessments:

1. We Are Expecting Students to Think Differently

The new assessments are aligned with our new state standards, which were designed to encourage critical thinking, analytical writing, and real-world problem solving. These are skills students will need in order to be successful in college and career.

Questions that require abstract thinking, synthesis, and analysis will make up 50 to 60 percent of the new state assessments. This is a dramatic increase in rigor over past state assessments.

2. Proficiency Levels Are Set High

California has set high proficiency levels on the new state assessments, raising the bar for all students.

Based on projections from field tests in California and other states, it's likely that fewer students will score at the higher achievement levels on the new assessments, especially in the first few years. However, this doesn't mean that students have fallen behind or learned less. It simply means that we're expecting more from them and aligning what's being taught in the classroom with what they will need to know when entering college or the workforce.

3. The Assessments Measure What Students Will Need to Succeed in College and Career

The system-wide changes we've begun are focused on helping students succeed in the long run, achieving their dreams of college and a career.

4. We've Moved Beyond Simple Multiple-Choice Questions

There are fewer multiple-choice questions and more short answers and extended responses that require a deeper understanding of key concepts.

Along with reading to follow a story, students are learning to read to cite evidence and draw logical conclusions. They are learning to use math to solve real-world problems rather than merely pick out the right multiple-choice answer.

5. These Are Computer-Based Assessments

Students in grades 3 through 8 and 11 use computers or tablets to take the state assessments. The computer-based testing includes embedded supports that will give students the opportunity to fully demonstrate their knowledge and mastery of the state standards in English language arts and mathematics.

6. The Assessments Measure Different Skills in New Ways

The things we expect students to know and be able to do in order to be successful in college and career have changed, so our assessments had to change as well.

7. Test Scores will Be Reported in Late Summer – Early Fall

This is the first year for the new assessments. Statewide Academic Performance Index, or API, scores won't be released for at least another year.

8. Results Should Not Be Compared to Earlier State Assessments

The new assessments are fundamentally too different from the old exams to make any reliable comparisons between old scores and new ones. Rather, this year's results will establish a baseline for the progress we expect students to make over time. Think of it as pushing the reset button on assessment results and getting a fresh start.

9. State Assessments Are Only One of Many Measures

These results should be looked at in context with other measures – including district assessments, report card grades, and portfolios of student work – to determine how well students are learning.

10. The New Standards Are A Critical Component In Our Students' Future Success

The new assessments are part of a larger plan for ensuring high-quality teaching and learning in every school. The plan also includes high academic standards, more decision-making in the hands of schools and communities, and more resources dedicated to schools and to students with the greatest needs.

This is an exciting and important transition that will ultimately benefit students and parents.

Learn more at www.chino.k12.ca.us or the California Department of Education's website www.cde.ca.gov.
