

# A PARENT'S GUIDE TO COLORADO ALTERNATE (CoALT) SCIENCE AND SOCIAL STUDIES ASSESSMENT

Assessments provide valuable information for students, parents and educators on whether students have mastered grade level and content standards and are on track to graduate prepared for the 21st century. These assessment results are intended to provide one measure in a body of evidence of your child's academic progress.



## WHAT IS CoALT SCIENCE AND SOCIAL STUDIES ASSESSMENT?

The CoAlt Science and Social Studies Assessment is standards based and measures students progress towards the Extended Evidence Outcomes of the Colorado Academic Standards. This is a state mandated assessment for students with significant cognitive disabilities who are unable to participate in CMAS, even with accommodations. The CoAlt Science Assessment is administered to students in grades 5 and 8. The CoAlt Social Studies Assessment is administered to students in grades 4 and 7 to 1/3 of all students in those grades.



## WHEN IS MY CHILD BEING TESTED?

Your child will be tested during the month of April. The test administration window is April 11, 2016 – April 29, 2016. Your child will only test on certain days based on grade and subject, not during the entire window. Please contact your child's teacher for their specific testing schedule.

April

S	M	T	W	TR	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30



## WHAT SCORE(S) WILL MY CHILD RECEIVE?

Your child will receive a scale score and a performance level. Performance levels describe the concepts and skills students are expected to demonstrate at each of the levels. The four cross-grade and content area performance levels are Novice, Developing, Emerging and Exploring.

Your child's overall scale score (the number between 0 and 250) and performance level (Exploring, Emerging, Developing or Novice) are provided. An inconclusive designation is given to students who did not respond to any items on the assessment.



## HOW WILL THESE SCORES BE USED?

The primary purpose of the assessment program is to determine the level at which Colorado students with significant cognitive disabilities meet the Extended Evidence Outcomes of the Colorado Academic Standards in the content areas of Science and Social Studies at the end of the tested grade level. CoAlt results are intended to provide one measure of a student's academic progress relative to the Extended Evidence Outcomes.



## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For more information on assessments, please visit the Accountability, Research, and Evaluation website: <http://testing.dpsk12.org>

We encourage you to be involved in your child's education. Please don't hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher for ways you can help your child at home and availability of testing accommodations.

We also encourage you to go to <http://standards.dpsk12.org/standards-resources/> to find helpful information, including:

- A Parent's Guide to Technology
- Colorado state resources
- Information for English Learners

If you have questions or concerns about assessments, please contact your child's school directly or call Family Constituency Services at (720) 423-3054.