

## Time Commitment to Testing

Most Colorado students are spending at least a dozen hours per year on CSAP, NAEP, ACT, and selected other district academic assessments. 8th grade students spend the most time on tests (17.5 hours per pupil per year on average) and K, 1, and 11th grade students the least (2 hours per pupil per year for K-1 and 3 hours per pupil per year for 11th grade students). On average, 5th and 8th graders are spending just under 2% of the total hours they are required to be in school per year on testing. The CSAP tests are the most time consuming of all of the tests examined. Table 1 provides more detailed information about the hours spent on selected tests per year by grade.

Not included in these estimates are the hours spent testing students with special needs or the time spent by adults developing, administering, and analyzing tests. The amount of time spent in test preparation often is greatest for students in poor performing schools—time that would otherwise be spent on instruction.

**Table 1: Hours spent on selected tests per year**

|                 | K | 1 | 2 | 3  | 4    | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8    | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12  | Total Hours |
|-----------------|---|---|---|----|------|----|----|----|------|----|----|----|-----|-------------|
| CSAP            |   |   |   | 6  | 9    | 12 | 9  | 9  | 12   | 9  | 12 |    |     | 78          |
| NAEP            |   |   |   |    | 1.5  |    |    |    | 1.5  |    |    |    | 1.5 | 4.5         |
| MAP             |   |   | 4 | 4  | 4    | 4  | 4  | 4  | 4    | 4  |    |    |     | 32          |
| Basic Literacy  | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2  |      |    |    |    |      |    |    |    |     | 8           |
| CO ACT          |   |   |   |    |      |    |    |    |      |    |    | 3  |     | 3           |
| Total per pupil | 2 | 2 | 6 | 12 | 14.5 | 16 | 13 | 13 | 17.5 | 13 | 12 | 3  | 1.5 | 125.5       |

## Cost of Tests

At the state and local levels, Colorado spends an estimated \$54.59 per year per pupil (across grades 2-11) on selected summative, formative, and interim tests. The grades with the least amount spent on testing were 2nd and 11th, with the amount spent in the other grades about the same (approximately \$64 per pupil). Tables 2 and 3 provide aggregated and estimated per pupil costs for selected tests.

# An Overview of Testing: Types, Time, and Costs

**Table 2: Cost (amount spent on selected tests annually)**

|                       | Total amount spent annually                                                                                                                                      | Approximate cost per pupil | Required by        |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>CSAP</b>           | In 2005, nearly \$25 million was spent on CSAP in CO (\$9 million came from the US DOE).                                                                         | \$52.43 (grades 3-10)      | State, Federal     |
| <b>NAEP</b>           | Approximately \$93 million was budgeted for the NAEP (nationally) in 2006 and over 930,000 students took the test (total from grades 4,8,12)                     | \$100 (no cost to state)   | Federal Government |
| <b>MAP</b>            | \$2300 (Ouray), \$95,000 (Littleton)                                                                                                                             | \$10-14                    | District/school    |
| <b>Successmaker</b>   | \$1100 per license (one license serves approx. 10 kids per week). An average school has 300 kids per week using 30 licenses at a cost of \$33,000 per year       | \$110                      | District/school    |
| <b>DPS Benchmark</b>  | \$900,000                                                                                                                                                        | \$12                       | District           |
| <b>Basic Literacy</b> | Set-up licensing fee (DPS spent \$350/ K-5 student). After this licensing fee, subsequent costs are for personnel time spent administering and scoring the test. | Personnel-related          | District           |
| <b>CO Act</b>         | \$1.6 million (approximately)                                                                                                                                    | \$29                       | State              |

**Table 3: Statewide cost estimates of selected tests per grade**

|                        | 2         | 3           | 4           | 5           | 6           | 7           | 8           | 9           | 10          | 11          | Total Estimated Cost |
|------------------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|----------------------|
| <b>CSAP</b>            |           | \$2,998,944 | \$2,996,427 | \$2,994,277 | \$3,023,848 | \$3,094,523 | \$3,143,074 | \$3,347,184 | \$3,145,485 |             | \$24,743,762         |
| <b>CO ACT</b>          |           |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             | \$1,600,000 | \$1,600,000          |
| <b>MAP</b>             | \$723,696 | \$709,512   | \$694,512   | \$694,869   | \$694,116   | \$700,440   | \$713,316   | \$775,836   |             |             | \$5,706,288          |
| <b>Total</b>           | \$723,696 | \$3,708,456 | \$3,690,939 | \$3,689,137 | \$3,717,964 | \$3,794,963 | \$3,856,390 | \$4,123,020 | \$3,145,485 | \$1,600,000 | \$32,050,050         |
| <b>Total per pupil</b> | \$12.33   | \$64.83     | \$64.58     | \$64.60     | \$64.47     | \$64.30     | \$64.33     | \$64.58     | \$52.43     | \$29.43     | \$54.59              |

**Cost/Benefit Analysis for Removal of 2011 CSAP Writing and CSAP 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Assessments**

**Removal of CSAP Writing:**

|                                                                                                                                                       |                  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Savings:</b>                                                                                                                                       |                  |
| Separating writing from the reading assessments for grades 4-10 and eliminating administration of CSAP and CSAP-A writing assessments for Spring 2011 | \$1,175,000      |
| <b>Costs:</b>                                                                                                                                         |                  |
| Submitting revised state plan for peer review                                                                                                         | -\$300,000       |
| Research and evaluation for revisions to student growth percentile calculations and performance evaluation framework                                  | -\$28,208        |
| National Center for the Improvement of Educational Assessment and Universal Minds revisions to SchoolView.org                                         | -\$105,000       |
| Design rubric for districts to use in administering their own writing assessments                                                                     | -\$10,000        |
| <b>Total</b>                                                                                                                                          | <b>\$731,792</b> |

**Removal of CSAP 9<sup>th</sup> Grade:**

|                                                                                                                                         |                 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Savings:</b>                                                                                                                         |                 |
| Eliminating administration of CSAP and <u>CSAP-A assessments</u> for Spring 2011                                                        | \$497,000       |
| <b>Costs:</b>                                                                                                                           |                 |
| Research and evaluation for revisions to student growth percentile calculations and performance evaluation framework                    | -\$177,912      |
| National Center for the Improvement of Educational Assessment and Universal Minds revisions to growth model software and SchoolView.org | -\$240,000      |
| <b>Total</b>                                                                                                                            | <b>\$79,088</b> |

### Class of 2008 Graduation Data

The graduation rate for the Class of 2008 was 73.9 percent. This is a 1.1 percentage point decrease from the Class of 2007 rate of 75.0 percent and a 0.2 percentage point decrease compared to the Class of 2006 graduation rate of 74.1 percent. Figure 18 below provides an overview of graduation rate trends from 2005 to 2008, broken down by disaggregated group. Table 10 on page 33 compares graduation rates from 2007 to 2008, including the number of graduates in each disaggregated group.

Figure 18

### Graduation Rate Trend Data

