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PRESS RELEASE
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Latest CSAP results show steady improvement

Continuous scale used to track student scores from grade to grade

In virtually every grade and every subject, Douglas County students showed improvement on the latest Colorado Student Assessment Program (CSAP) test results.

“I feel very good about our overall scores,” said Superintendent Rick O’Connell. “I’m pleased to see that we’ve maintained our high level of performance.”

The use of the continuous scale for reading scores allows the district to compare results from year to year and to chart growth for individual students. While it’s not unusual to see small amounts of change from year to year at a grade level, there have been some substantial increases as students advance to the next grade.

For example, 2002 sixth graders scored five percent higher in reading than they did in 2001 as fifth graders, improving from 79 to 86 percent at or above proficient. Last year’s fourth graders now taking the fifth-grade reading test improved their scores from 76 to 81 percent.

An in-depth analysis shows that students are also moving up from the lower categories. The percent of sixth-grade students scoring unsatisfactory has been reduced to two percent—three percent less than earned unsatisfactory when this group was tested in fourth grade. This reaffirms Douglas County’s commitment to continuous quality improvement as one of the school district’s core values.

“The continuous scale that was created in 2001 for reading allows us to compare student progress over time,” said Director of Assessment Nancee Sprigg. This is in alignment with the first objective in the district’s Strategic Plan under Student Achievement, explains Sprigg, which reads *Each student will show appropriate growth in reading, writing and math as measured by local, state and national assessments.*

Ninth-grade math scores are strong at 53 percent—well above the state average. “This bodes well for students when they take the test as sophomores,” added Sprigg. “We hope to see continued improvement at 10th grade.”

This year, all students in grades 3-10 were tested in writing, and math was tested at grades 5-10. A continuous scale for math and writing has been created that will enable the district to begin tracking individual student progress when next year’s CSAP results are reported.

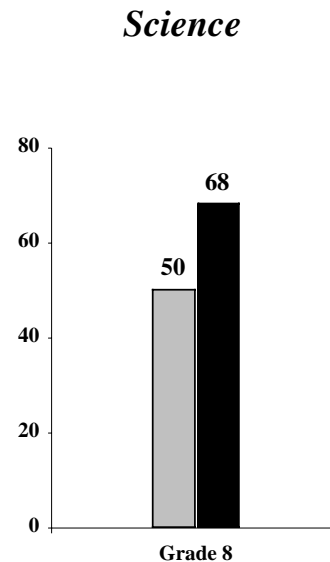
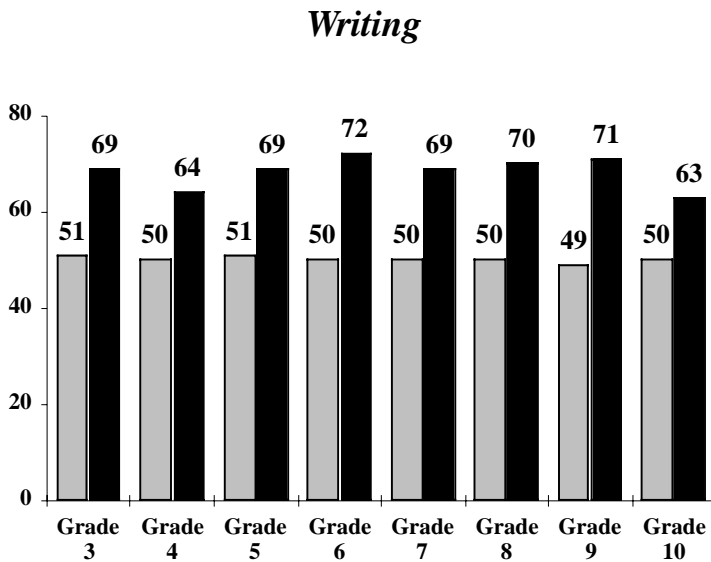
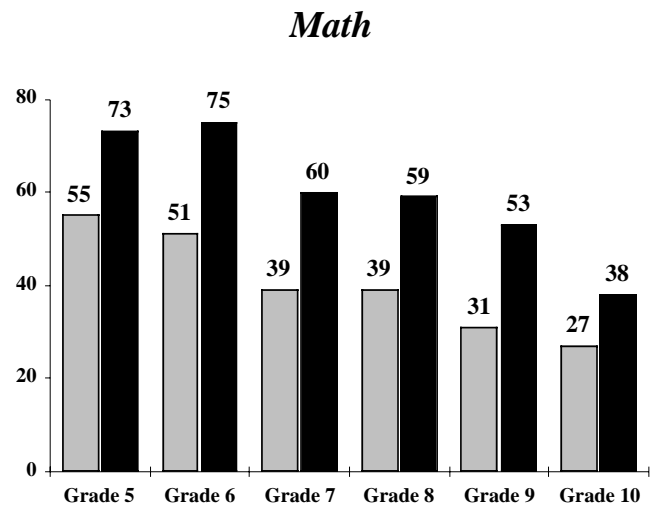
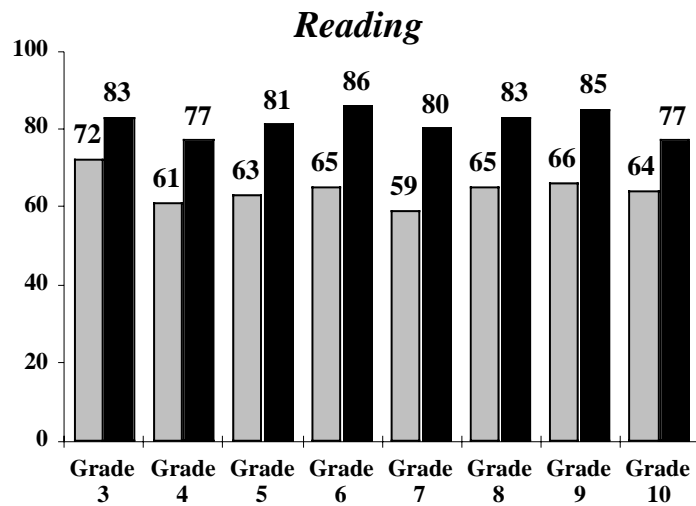
Assistant Superintendent of Research & Assessment Elliott Asp said, “I view this as a baseline year because the performance levels have been aligned in each subject area to allow us to track growth in a more systematic way from year to year. The good news is that we’ve seen steady increases in almost every grade and every subject area.”

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Sprigg and Asp will give a presentation on CSAP results to the Board of Education at its meeting on August 20, 2002.

“I believe in CSAP as one important way in which to measure our students’ success,” said O’Connell. “I want to thank all of the teachers, classified and administrative staff who have worked so hard on this testing process.”

2002 CSAP–Percentage of students scoring *At or Above Proficient*



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