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Jeffco Schools Continues to Exceed State Performance for 2015 CMAS Science & Social Studies Results

Participation rates better than or on par with state averages

GOLDEN, Colo. (July 16, 2015) – The Colorado Department of Education (CDE) released the 2015 Elementary and Middle CMAS social studies and science results, and Jeffco students continued to exceed the state performance results across all tests. Overall, scores also showed improvement within Jeffco Schools from 2014 to 2015.

“These results reflect the hard work of our teachers, staff and students as well as the commitment of Jeffco Schools to increasing student performance,” said Jeffco Schools Superintendent Dan McMinimee. “Our mission is to prepare students for the next phase of their lives, and these results show that we are moving towards delivering on that promise. Despite the positive results, we cannot be satisfied until every student in Jeffco, at a minimum, is performing at his or her grade level. We know that our students will be competing in a global marketplace for careers, and we need to ensure that we are preparing them to be successful.”

Jeffco’s fourth grade social studies results improved from 2014 to 2015, with a nearly four-point increase in the percent of students in strong command. Additionally, results showed a 2.5 point increase in the percent of students in distinguished command.

Fifth grade science scores for Jeffco students showed mostly positive overall results compared to 2014. Jeffco saw a nearly 1.5 and 0.5 point increase in the percent of students in distinguished and strong command performance levels, respectively. Students with strong and distinguished command exceeded the state by seven and two percentage points, respectively.

Jeffco’s seventh grade social studies results exceeded the state results by four points in the strong command, and nearly two points in the distinguished command performance levels. Jeffco saw similar performance across years in all performance levels, with less than a one-point difference from 2014 to 2015 for each command level.

Eighth grade science scores for Jeffco students exceeded the state results by nearly eight points in the strong command, and 1.6 points in the distinguished command performance levels. Results declined in strong and distinguished command performance compared to 2014, as did the state results.



Building Bright Futures

Across all tests, gender gaps were minimal, with female students slightly outperforming male students on several tests. Full English Proficient students demonstrated higher strong and distinguished performance levels than Limited English Proficient students across all tests. Gifted and talented students continued to outperform other students.

This was the second year CMAS social studies and science tests were administered by the CDE in elementary and middle schools. Trends between years do not show change in performance for the same group of students; however, these trends compare the strength of the instructional program from year-to-year.

For the most part, Jeffco student participation in CMAS testing was on par with, and in some instances better than, state averages. In fourth grade social studies, there were 123 parent refusals, which equated to 2.0%, which was the same as the state. In fifth grade science, there were 122 parent refusals, which represented a 2.0% parent refusal rate, which was slightly lower than the state average (2.2%). Jeffco's parent refusal rate for seventh grade social studies was 3.7%, which was an entire percentage point lower than the state's average of 4.7%. Finally, Jeffco participation in eighth grade science testing was 4.1%, which is over two points better than the state average of 6.2%.

About Jeffco Public Schools

Jeffco Public Schools has been providing educational excellence for more than 60 years. Approximately nine percent of all the K-12 students in Colorado attend a Jeffco School. Our mission is to provide a quality education that prepares all children for a successful future. The district has 155 schools on 168 campuses. Additional information about Jeffco Public Schools can be found at JeffcoPublicSchools.org.

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