

# Parents' Clipboard

ELEMENTARY LEVEL



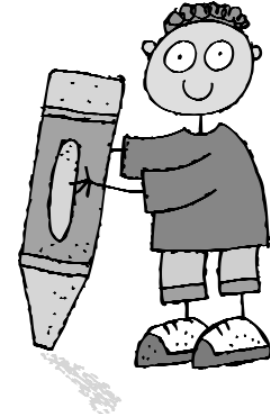
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## Tests Your Child Takes in School

The most common and frequent tests your child takes in school are quizzes and exams that teachers routinely use to check on students' learning. In addition to these teacher-made tests, in Colorado, the schools are required to give Colorado Student Assessment Program (CSAP) tests in grades 3 through 10 for reading and writing. The tests are designed to measure what students know and are able to demonstrate about the state's academic standards.

As a parent, you should receive information regularly about your child's performance on tests; those the teachers use routinely in the classroom as well as the CSAP tests. Tests are far from perfect measures of what your child has learned at school. At best, they only measure some of what he or she has learned. A more complete picture of your child's learning also includes:

- ✓ The teacher's review of your child's daily work in class;
- ✓ The teacher's observations of your child as he completes classrooms assignments;
- ✓ Conversations with you about how well your child is learning and how the teacher can work with your child, and with you, to increase school success.



### 😊 Helping Your Child Do Well On Tests 😊

You can help your child do his or her best on tests by doing the following:

- 📎 Encourage your child to do her best on tests. Talk with her about the test being a snapshot and how it is one opportunity to "look one's best" and to show how much she has learned.
- 📎 Make sure your child attends school every day so he can learn as much as possible. This will enable him to do well in school and to do well on tests.
- 📎 Praise your child's improvement on tests and limit your negative comments until you have a chance to talk with the teacher about unsatisfactory test scores.
- 📎 Work with your child at home as well as with his school and teacher to help him become a good reader. Good reading skills are important to success in school and to doing well on tests.
- 📎 Provide a quiet place at home for your child to do homework assignments that reinforce what she is learning at school.
- 📎 Find out when the CSAP tests are to be given and avoid scheduling appointments that would keep your child out of the classroom as well as evening events that would delay a normal bedtime.

*"I find television very educational. Every time someone switches it on I go into another room and read a good book." ... Groucho Marx*

## Q & A

**Q** When I attend parent-teacher conferences, what are some questions I might ask the teacher about tests my child takes at school?

**A** After reviewing any test results that have been sent home and you don't understand fully, don't hesitate to ask questions like the following:

1. How does the material my child learns in class relate to what is covered on tests?
2. In what other ways does the school as well as the teacher measure how well my child is learning?
3. How much time does my child spend taking tests during a typical school week?
4. How does the school and the teacher use test results?
5. Does my child's performance on state-required achievement tests match his performance in the classroom?