



Implementation Extension for the Colorado Academic Standards in Science

During the recent review and revision process for the Colorado Academic Standards, the science committee recommended and the State Board of Education adopted an adaptation of the Next Generation Science Standards for Colorado. At the time, there was recognition among the state board and CDE that this shift was more substantial than any of the other content areas, and as such, may require more time for implementation.

The legislated timeline for districts to transition to the revised standards allows for two years, with full implementation to occur during the 2020-21 school year. The 2020-21 CMAS is expected to be based on the 2020 Colorado Academic Standards.

In the fall of 2018, CDE solicited feedback on the option to extend the implementation timeline *only for science standards*. Through a statewide survey and visits to superintendent meetings, the feedback received indicated that an extension to the implementation timeline only for the science standards would be useful for educators to fully transition to the new standards. As a result, full implementation of the science standards will take place in the 2021-22 school year. The Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS) science assessments will transition to covering the 2020 CAS in science no sooner than the full implementation of the 2020 CAS in the 2021-22 school year.

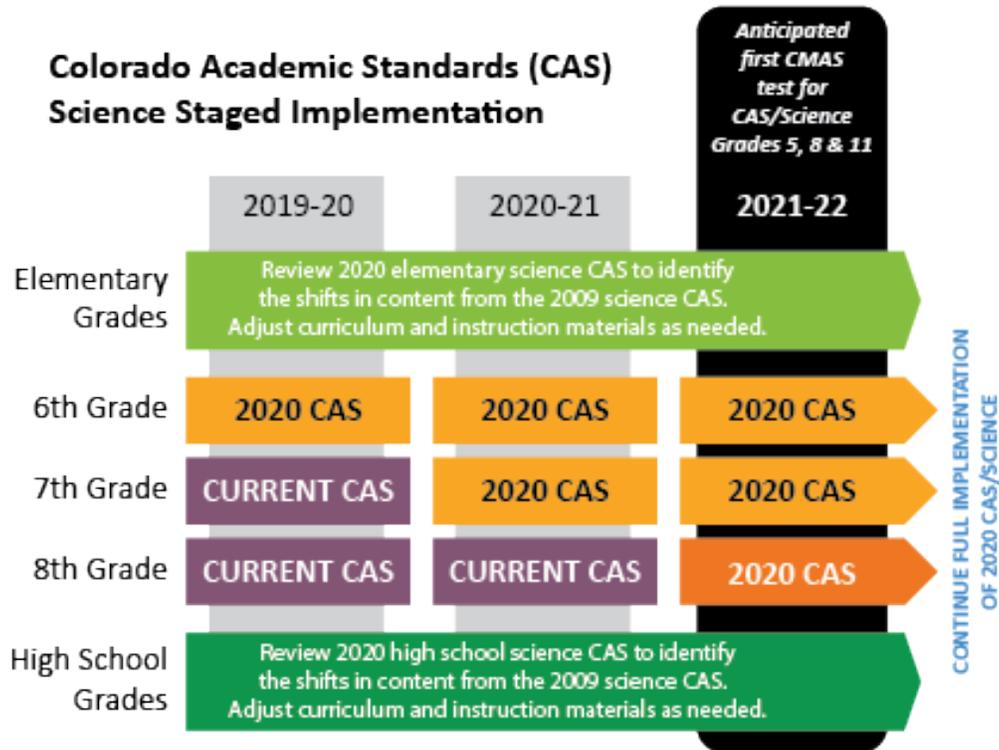
Below is a table that illustrates the science standards and assessment implementation timeline.

School Year	Version of the Colorado Academic Standards (CAS) for Science	Science Assessment
2018 – 19	2009 CAS	Administer CMAS based on 2009 CAS
2019 – 20	2009 CAS	Administer CMAS based on 2009 CAS
2020 – 21	2009 CAS	Administer CMAS based on 2009 CAS
2021 – 22	2020 CAS	Expected: Administer revised CMAS based on 2020 CAS (Accountability: Hold harmless-participation only)
2022 – 23	2020 CAS	Administer revised CMAS based solely on 2020 CAS

The CMAS for science is given in 5th, 8th and 11th grades. Consistent with the standards, the 5th grade CMAS will assess the 5th grade standards. Because the science standards are articulated by grade band at middle school and high school level rather than grade levels, the 8th grade CMAS will assess all middle school science standards, and the 11th grade CMAS will continue to assess all high school science standards.

The department recommends that districts consider the comprehensive nature of the middle school science CMAS assessments as part of their planning to transition to the 2020 science CAS. To assist districts in planning for the transition, the department recommends that districts consider the following implementation timeline.

By staging implementation of the middle school CAS beginning with sixth grade in the 2019-20 school year, students will have had the opportunity to learn the middle school science content prior to the first administration on the revised science CMAS in Spring 2022. Consideration for transition to the revised elementary and high school science CAS is also recommended with a special focus on elementary given the shifts in content shifts from the 2009 science CAS.



CDE is working with science curriculum specialists and other science education leaders through the Colorado Science Education Network to provide professional development and other transition resources to Colorado school districts. Information and resources will be posted on this webpage:

<https://www.cde.state.co.us/coscience/statestandards>.

Where Can I Learn More?

Implementation professional development modules for the 2020 CAS can be accessed following this link:

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/standardsandinstruction/2020implementation>

Resources for the Next Generation Science Standards, upon which the 2020 science CAS are based, can be found at:

- District implementation planning: https://www.nextgenscience.org/sites/default/files/FINAL%20District%20Implementation%20Workbook_0.pdf
- Communication: <https://www.nextgenscience.org/communicating-about-standards/communicating-about-standards>