

## POSITION STATEMENT

(Approved by the 2015 Colorado PTA Board of Directors)

### STATE TESTING

Colorado PTA supports the following changes in state law regarding the frequency of state-mandated assessments:

- **For English Language Arts (ELA), Mathematics, and Science testing,** PTA would like the Colorado Department of Education to seek a waiver from the U.S. Department of Education to allow the ACT exam to count toward the federally mandated requirement for testing in these three subjects in high school.
- **If the waiver for the ACT is not granted,** PTA's secondary position is for testing in high school to occur in 10<sup>th</sup> grade for ELA and Mathematics and in 11<sup>th</sup> grade for Science. PTA would like the ACT to continue to be a required test for all 11<sup>th</sup> grade Colorado students.
- **Regarding Social Studies,** would like the state-mandated CMAS assessment in Social Studies to be **eliminated**, as this is not a federally mandated requirement, but allow local districts to continue Social Studies testing, if they so choose. If the Legislature decides that Social Studies testing should still be required, PTA recommends Social Studies testing only in the 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grades. PTA believes that it is not necessary to test in Social Studies in early elementary grades or as frequently as is currently required.

Furthermore, PTA believes that parents should be able to opt their children out of testing and that parents should be able to make this choice without the worry of negative impacts to the evaluations of their teachers and schools.

PTA supports early childhood education and testing that validates the effectiveness of early education; therefore, PTA supports the School Readiness assessments and those administered as part of the READ Act.

Finally, PTA believes that the state should allow the PARCC tests to be administered as a paper-and-pencil test for rural, elementary, and special education students.