CCRA+

Assessment Prep Materials: For Educators & Support Staff

Helping Students Prepare for Their Future, Today

How the College and Career Readiness Assessment (CCRA+) will help you support students in building the skills colleges and employers want most.

Throughout the year, we regularly assess students' progress towards meeting reading, math, social studies and science benchmarks. While that content knowledge is very important, essential skills like critical thinking, problem solving, and written communication are just as important in preparing students for success following graduation. In fact, these are the skills colleges and employers consistently rank as the most important.

That is why students will take the College and Career Readiness Assessment (CCRA+). You will not have to do anything to facilitate the test taking but we think the data from the assessment will be useful to you as you work with students to prepare them for their next steps after high school graduation.

What is CCRA+?

CCRA+ is a performance-based assessment that provides accurate, reliable data into students' mastery of critical thinking, problem solving, and effective written communication that can be used to guide instruction and inform programming to strengthen these skills.

The CCRA+ online platform that students will use to take the assessments meets the highest standards of data security and is FERPA compliant.

What is the assessment like?

• Students will be asked to come up with a solution for a real-world problem.

• First, they will read several reference documents that provide background information about the problem.

• Using supplied reference materials, students must organize information, define the problem, address issues, consider and evaluate solutions, and then write an essay in which they recommend and defend a course of action.

• They will have 60 minutes for this performance task.

• After writing their essay, they will have 30 minutes to answer a series of selected response questions.

What data will be available from CCRA+?

Each student will receive a report that shows their current proficiency in critical thinking, problem solving, and written communication. The report will also include six subscores for the different parts of the test to help identify each student's strengths and areas of opportunity.

• Each student's report will show their overall score for the assessment as well as their mastery level on a scale from Emerging to Advanced.

• The report will also show how their overall score compares to the average score in their school and with similar students across the U.S.

• Individual scores are also given for each specific skill that was evaluated on the test. These skills include the ability to:

  ○ Analyze information and solve problems

  ○ Write clearly, accurately and concisely

  ○ Follow the rules of writing including grammar

  ○ Understand and interpret data including graphs and charts

  ○ Understand text and its meaning

  ○ Analyze an argument and understand the source and basis for the argument

• For each of these skills, the report will show a comparison of each student's scores with the school's average scores and the average scores for similar students across the U.S. who have taken CCRA+.

How can CCRA+ data be used?

• To help identify each student's strengths and areas of opportunity

• To better understand factors that may be contributing to academic difficulties

• To provide class-wide instruction focused on building critical thinking, problem solving, and written communication skills

• To provide targeted intervention and supports to students who have greater opportunities for growth

If you have questions about CCRA+, please visit www.cae.org/grades-6-12, or reach out to your school leader.