

## Common Core/Core Knowledge/PARCC & CMAS FAQs

- **Q-** Is Common Core the same thing as Core Knowledge?
  - **A- No.** Common Core is a set of standards that Colorado adopted. Core Knowledge is a Scope and Sequence that Frontier Academy uses to align our curriculum in kindergarten through eighth grades (k-8).
- **Q-** Is Colorado or Frontier using Common Core?
  - **A- Yes.** Keep in mind Common Core is simply a set of standards, much like the Colorado Content Standards previously. In 2010, Colorado adopted the Common Core standards and Colorado Content Standards became Colorado Academic Standards. Neither Colorado, nor Frontier, has adopted Common Core curriculum.
- **Q-** Has Frontier Academy changed curriculum because of Common Core?
  - **A- No.** Frontier Academy is still using the same curriculum we have been, which aligns with the Core Knowledge Sequence.
- **Q-** What will the PARCC/CMAS test results be used for?
  - PARCC/CMAS results will be used just as TCAP or CMAS results were used- to guide instruction and make meaningful changes in our practices to help students learn. Student specific data will not be shared publicly or with other agencies as it would be a FERPA violation.
- **Q-** Can students opt out of the PARCC/CMAS assessments?
  - Frontier Academy has agreed to use state prescribed assessments as a measure of academic performance as a condition of its charter agreement with District 6. It is also [required] in the Colorado Revised Statutes (Section 22-7-409). Per the student handbook, parents have agreed to student participation in state prescribed assessment. Please understand there are further potential implications for the school if students opt out. Implications could include school rating through the Colorado Department of Education and standing with District 6. More importantly, Frontier will have less information available to guide school, grade, teacher and student improvement.
- **Q-** Are PARCC/CMAS results used in teacher performance evaluations?
  - **A- Yes.** As part of the Educator Effectiveness Act, schools in Colorado are required to use student performance data as one metric in determining a teacher's effectiveness in the classroom. The weight of the PARCC/CMAS assessment data in a teacher's evaluation at Frontier Academy is up to 20%. 50% of the evaluation is based on classroom observations. The remaining 30% of the evaluation is based on teacher designed classroom assessments.