

## **Assessment Systems**

Children’s Kiva Montessori School aims to educate the Whole Child in an Authentic Montessori environment. Therefore, the School shall seek to make Whole Child Development both recognizable and possible for students. It shall emphasize Whole Child Development in its processes of evaluating student performance.

### **State assessment system**

State and federal law requires the School to administer standardized assessments in the instructional areas of English language arts, math and science. State law also requires the School to administer standardized assessments in the instructional area of social studies. Accordingly, the School shall administer standardized assessments pursuant to these state and federal legal requirements. State law also requires the School to adopt policies and/or procedures concerning the use of pencil and paper on the computerized portion of state assessments; parent requests to excuse their children from taking state assessments; and the School’s assessment calendar. This policy represents the School’s plans and processes to address these requirements.

### **Paper and Pencil Option**

The School may determine that a specific classroom or level within the School, or any or all classrooms and levels will use pencil and paper to complete the computerized portions of a state assessment. Factors that will be considered in making this determination include:

- whether the instructional methodology of the particular classroom/level is consistent with the use of computerized assessments or written assessments;
- students’ previous experience with computerized and written assessments; and
- the technological capacity and resources of the particular classroom/level or the School.

Prior to making this determination, the Head of School or designee shall consult with the school Lead Guides and/or Level Leaders (s) affected by this determination as well as with interested parents/guardians of students enrolled in the School.

For students with disabilities, the use of pencil and paper instead of a computer to complete a state assessment shall be determined by the student’s Individualized Education Program (IEP) team or Section 504 team, in accordance with applicable law.

## **Parent requests for Opt Out of standardized assessments**

A parent/guardian who wishes to exempt his or her child from a particular state assessment or assessments shall make this request in accordance with this policy's accompanying regulation, The Opt Out Request Procedure.

In accordance with state law, the School shall not impose a negative consequence upon a student whose parent/guardian has requested an exemption from a state assessment or assessments. This policy's exemption process shall apply only to state assessments and shall not apply to School or classroom assessments.

## **School assessment system**

In addition to the state assessment system, the School has developed an appropriate assessment system that:

- fosters opportunities for students to reflect upon and apply what they have learned and gives them opportunities to demonstrate their skills and knowledge;
- includes "early warning" features that allow problems to be diagnosed promptly to let students, teachers and parents/guardians know that extra effort is necessary;
- provides reliable and valid information on student and school performance to educators, and parents/guardians; and
- provides timely and useful data for instructional improvement and improved student learning.

In accordance with applicable law, the School's assessment system shall accommodate students with disabilities and English language learners.

The School's assessment results and each student's Body of Evidence, in combination with state assessment results, will be used as the measurement of student Whole Child Development. It is believed these results will provide reliable and valid information about student progress.

## **Additional assessment information for parents/guardians**

In accordance with state law and this policy's accompanying regulation, the School shall distribute an assessment calendar and related information to parents/ guardians on an annual basis to inform them about the state and School assessments that the School plans to administer during the school year.

## **Classroom assessment system**

Classroom assessment are an integral part of the teaching and learning process that should occur as necessary in the classroom. The primary purpose of classroom assessment shall be to

enable teachers to make instructional decisions for and with students on a continual basis. Students are encouraged to engage in informal self-assessments as they study and attempt to solve problems, monitor their own progress and improve their learning. The Head of School shall approve the reporting and assessment systems as developed by the professional staff, upon recommendation of the Level Leaders.

LEGAL REFS.:

C.R.S. 22-7-1006.3 (1) (state assessment implementation schedule)

C.R.S. 22-7-1006.3 (1)(d) (School must report to district and CDE the number of students who will take the state assessment in a pencil and paper format)

C.R.S. 22-7-1006.3 (8)(a) (policy required to ensure explanation of student state assessment results)

C.R.S. 22-7-1013 (1) (academic standards)

C.R.S. 22-7-1013 (6) (policy required regarding the use of pencil and paper on state assessments)

C.R.S. 22-7-1013 (7) (procedure required concerning distribution of assessment calendar to parents/guardians)

C.R.S. 22-7-1013 (8) (policy and procedure required to allow parents to excuse their children from participation in state assessments)

C.R.S. 22-11-101 et seq. (Education Accountability Act of 2009)

C.R.S. 22-11-504 (3) (policy required to ensure explanation of student state assessment results and longitudinal growth information)

Children's Kiva Montessori School, Cortez, Colorado

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