

Testing only part of CSAP process

Written by Chris Lee

Long before pencils touch paper, boxes of materials arrive and are sorted through. With the annual Colorado Student Assessment Program (CSAP) around the corner, plans and schedules are in place to make sure testing goes smoothly.

District Assessment Coordinator Kimberlee Bennett said she deals with at least something related to CSAP each month of the year.

Approximately 325 students within the district will be tested March 15-26. In fact, some have already begun as the Colorado English Language Acquisition Proficiency (CELAPro), was given in January to 121 K-12 ESL students. Third graders have already been tested in reading, Bennett said.

Students in grades 3-10 are tested in math, reading and writing. Additionally, students in fifth grade, eighth and 10th will be tested in science.

Compared to a basic test, the CSAP has many specific and tedious steps. Once the boxes of supplies arrive, Bennett, with the help of Summer Maloney, makes sure everything they need was received. Supplies such as math tools, manuals and booklets are looked for.

Booklets are then grouped together for the teachers who will be proctoring the tests. Those proctoring tests will go through training Friday, March 5.

After the tests are completed, the process is nowhere near finished. Bennett said each booklet is gone through to make sure stray pencil marks are erased. Paint brushes are used to sweep away any eraser shavings. Bennett said she gets help from staff members for this process.

After cleaning the books when testing is complete, they are bound together with paper strips and color coded before being shipped to CTB/McGraw Hill in Indianapolis. Booklets are alphabetized by grade level and subject before getting bound together.

Boxes with the completed test booklets are marked with "to be scored" labels while boxes with extra or unused booklets, proctor manuals and math tools are sent back with "not to be scored"

Testing only part of CSAP process

Written by Chris Lee

labels. This helps speed up the grading process at the plant.

Throughout the entire process, there is a chain of custody to make sure it is known who is in possession of the booklets at all times.

Results of the test will not be known until late July. The third grade reading results will arrive late April or early May.

Results help determine if a student needs to be placed in resource, special education, Title 1 or a gifted program. Bennett said a separate report is sent to parents in August.

At the end of the process, nearly 40 staff members have, in some way, participated with the testing. Multiple rooms in both school buildings will be used throughout the process as well.

Supt. Bret Miles said the process has gotten bigger over the past few years and it takes more time and people to complete. "We're fortunate to have Kimberlee," he added.