

Calculator Policy

(Revised 07/2014 to be effective 2014-15 and 2015-16 School Years)



Purpose

- The items on the Grade 8 Science, Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, and Biology I assessments are designed so that calculators are not required to solve any of the problems. All tasks can be solved without the use of a calculator. However, certain tasks are much more difficult if a calculator is not available.
- Before the first day of the test, students using a calculator for any Grade 8 Science, Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, or Biology I assessment should be familiar with the use of the specific calculator that will be utilized. Students must be instructed in the use of calculators, otherwise it may hinder students' performance on the assessment.

Subject-Specific Requirements

- Grades 3-8 Math:
 - Calculators are only allowed as an approved accommodation for students on an IEP or 504 Plan, and only a basic four-function calculator with square root and percent.
- Grade 8 Science, Biology I, Algebra I and Geometry *{All Students}*:
 - Scientific Calculators meeting general requirements may be used on all sections.
- Algebra II *{All Students}*:
 - Graphing Calculators meeting general requirements may be used on all sections.

General Requirements

- Calculators are permitted but are not required.
- Calculator capabilities described for a specific subject give the maximum capabilities allowed; calculators with less capability are acceptable.
- Students may not share calculators.
- Students may use their own calculators or those provided by the school.
- Calculators that make noise must have the sound feature turned off.
- Calculators that have paper tape must have the tape removed.
- All calculators must have the memory cleared before and after the test session.
- Any programs or applications must be removed prior to the test session.

Prohibited Calculators

- Pocket organizers
- Handheld or laptop computers
- Electronic writing pads or pen-input devices
- Calculators built into cellular phones, smart watches, tablets or other electronic communication devices
- Calculators with a typewriter keypad (QWERTY format)
- Calculators with programs or applications that cannot be removed or disabled (e.g., Polynomial Root-Finder and Simultaneous Equation Solver on TI-86)
- Calculators with built-in computer algebra systems (CAS), such as, but not limited to:
 - Casio: Algebra fx 2.0, ClassPad 300, and all model numbers that begin with CFX-9970G
 - Texas Instruments: All model numbers that begin with TI-89 or TI-92, TI-Nspire CAS
 - Hewlett-Packard: HP-48GII and all model numbers that begin with HP-40G or HP-49G

Test Security and Validity

- Using a calculator that does not meet the above requirements invalidates the test results and is a violation of test security and test validity. Any violation will be reported to the State Superintendent and may result in revocation of teaching and/or administrative certificates.