



## State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR®) Calculator Policy

Calculators are required for the following STAAR assessments: **grade 8 mathematics, Algebra I**, and **biology**.

Calculators are not permitted for students taking the STAAR grades 3–7 mathematics assessments or the STAAR grades 5 and 8 science assessments unless the student meets the eligibility criteria for an accommodation. This includes STAAR Spanish, STAAR L, and STAAR A versions of these assessments. Information regarding calculators as an accommodation for students with disabilities can be found on the Accommodation Resources webpage.

### **STAAR Grade 8 Mathematics**

Districts must ensure that each student has a calculation device with graphing capability to use when taking the STAAR grade 8 mathematics assessment (including STAAR L and STAAR A). Students must have a calculation device to use throughout the entire test (both paper and online versions). For spring 2015 on a trial basis, districts may satisfy the graphing calculator requirement for STAAR grade 8 mathematics by providing students with either a handheld graphing calculator or a graphing calculator application available on a tablet.

The district may provide devices with graphing capability, or students may bring them from home. Students should be provided the same type of calculation device they use routinely in class work. Providing an unfamiliar calculation device on the day of the state assessment may hinder rather than aid the student. Students may have more than one calculation device during the assessment.

For handheld graphing calculators, all memory must be cleared to factory default both before and after testing. Any programs or applications must be removed or disabled prior to testing. For specific assistance in appropriately preparing calculators for use during testing, contact the calculator manufacturer.

For graphing calculator applications on tablets, all Internet capabilities must be disabled on the device. In addition, the calculator application being used must be locked down (in kiosk mode) to prevent the use of other applications during testing. Districts should be aware that some graphing calculator applications include resources that could aid students during testing. Students must be monitored closely to ensure that these resources are not accessed during the test.

Calculation devices on smartphones are not allowed. Calculation devices that have a computer algebra system (CAS) are also not allowed.



## **STAAR Algebra I**

Districts must ensure that each student has a handheld graphing calculator to use when taking the STAAR Algebra I assessment (including STAAR L and STAAR A). Students must have a handheld graphing calculator to use throughout the entire test (both paper and online versions). The district may provide graphing calculators, or students may bring them from home. Students should be provided the same type of graphing calculator they use routinely in class work. Providing an unfamiliar calculator on the day of the state assessment may hinder rather than aid the student. Students may have more than one calculator during the assessment.

All calculator memory must be cleared to factory default both before and after testing. Any programs or applications must be removed or disabled prior to testing. For specific assistance in appropriately preparing calculators for use during testing, contact the calculator manufacturer.

Calculators that have a computer algebra system (CAS) are not allowed. Electronic devices that provide access to the Internet, have photographic capabilities, or have a calculator as an application are also not allowed.

## **STAAR Biology**

Districts must ensure that students have access to handheld four-function, scientific, or graphing calculators when taking the STAAR biology assessment (including STAAR L and STAAR A). There should be at least one handheld calculator for every five students taking the biology assessment (both paper and online versions). The district may provide calculators, or students may bring them from home. Students should be provided the same type of calculator they use routinely in class work. Providing an unfamiliar calculator on the day of the state assessment may hinder rather than aid the student. Students may have more than one calculator during the assessment.

All calculator memory must be cleared to factory default both before and after testing. In addition, if calculators are shared during the test, the calculator memory must be cleared after each student uses it. Any programs or applications must be removed or disabled prior to testing. For specific assistance in appropriately preparing calculators for use during testing, contact the calculator manufacturer.

Calculators that have a computer algebra system (CAS) are not allowed. Electronic devices that provide access to the Internet, have photographic capabilities, or have a calculator as an application are also not allowed.