

Calculator Recommendations

Overview. The following table lists the recommended Texas Instruments calculators by grade-band. For additional information about each model, please visit www.education.ti.com and click on “Products.” Please follow the procurement [process](#) for purchasing calculators with the approved [vendor](#).

Please also see these [documents](#) on calculator requirements for various assessments and using “testing mode.” Note that calculators should be used *strategically*, to enhance the students’ understanding of mathematical ideas. In particular, we do not recommend use of calculators for numerical reasoning and computational fluency.

Grades	Model	Comments on Features
K-4	TI-10 or TI-15 Explorer	Both the TI-10 and TI-15 Explorer are good elementary-level models. They allow for exploring place-value and basic algebra. Both are solar- and battery-powered. <i>There is no emulator software for either of these models.</i>
5-7	TI-34 MultiView or TI-30XS MultiView*	The TI-34 MultiView (MV) is ideal for laying a foundation for using calculators in the TI-84 Plus family in later years. Both the TI-34MV and the TI-30XS MultiView (MV) are available in “school property yellow,” and both are solar- and battery-powered. Both the TI-34 MV and TI-30XS MV also have a emulator software (TI-Smartview). <i>We do not recommend the TI-30XIIS, because it lacks emulator software.</i> <small>* Note that the TI-30XS MV simplifies radicals and has an x-y function-table feature, which is <u>currently</u> permitted for PA state tests, but which is prohibited by some states.</small>
8-12	Basic Graphing: TI-84 Plus or TI-84 Plus CE Advanced Graphing: TI-Nspire CX or TI-Nspire CX CAS*	The TI-84 Plus and TI-84 Plus CE are both available in “school property yellow.” The TI-84 Plus runs on AAA batteries; the TI-84 Plus CE is rechargeable, which can, ultimately, lower the cost. The TI-84 Plus CE also offers new coding features, while the TI-84 Plus does not. The TI-Nspire CX and TI-Nspire CX CAS are backlit, color graphing calculators that are rechargeable. All of these recommended models have a emulator software (TI-Smartview for the basic models, TI-Nspire Teacher Edition for the advanced models). For the advanced models, the TI-Nspire Student Edition software and iPad app allow students to use the technology at home without necessarily having the calculator at hand. In addition, the TI-Nspire Navigator technology enables teachers to create an interactive math classroom. They can see what all students are doing on their calculators, send and receive documents, and use a formative assessment tool (which grades the students’ work in real-time). Work can be saved to a student portfolio for later data analysis. <i>We do not recommend the TI-84 Plus Silver Edition, nor the TI-84 Plus C Silver Edition. These have either been discontinued or replaced by newer models. The TI-89 Titanium is acceptable, but we do not fully recommend it, because of the lack of emulator software, the additional costs for AAA batteries, and its built-in CAS (which is only acceptable on SAT and AP exams, see below).</i> <small>* The TI-Nspire CX CAS also has a Computer Algebra System (CAS) built-in for symbolic manipulation. Note that the CAS model is not acceptable for PSSA, Keystone, or ACT exams. (It is acceptable for SAT and AP exams.)</small>

Version Date: 11/14/2016

