pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) and Keystone Exams

Handbook for Secure Test Administration

Test Security Handbook

Security Statement

State assessments rely on the measurement of individual achievement. Any deviation from procedures meant to ensure test validity and security (e.g., group work, teacher coaching, teaching or release of any test items, use of previously administered Pennsylvania assessments as preparation tools) is strictly prohibited and will be considered a violation of test security. LEA/school personnel with access to the assessment materials must not review, discuss, disseminate, or otherwise reveal the contents to anyone. (This prohibition excludes the *Item and Scoring Samplers* available on the Pennsylvania Department of Education's (PDE's) website.)

Any action by a professional employee or commissioned officer that is willfully designed to divulge test questions, falsify student scores, or compromise the integrity of the state assessment system will be subject to disciplinary action under the Educator Discipline Act, 24 P.S. §§ 2070.1a *et seq*, which may include a private reprimand, a public reprimand, a suspension of his/her teaching certificate(s), a revocation of his/her teaching certificate(s), and/or a suspension or prohibition from being employed by a charter school.

Training and Test Administration Procedures

The purpose of this handbook is to assist in the training of LEA/school personnel to properly and securely administer state assessments. This handbook is also an important and valuable resource in implementing testing successfully from planning and preparing to collecting and returning tests.

Roles and Responsibilities: Training

The District Assessment Coordinator (DAC) is responsible for attending training provided by PDE. The DAC is then responsible for coordinating all training that takes place in the LEA and for determining specifics related to test administration such as a schedule, type of administration (paper and pencil or online) and other LEA-level administrative aspects of the testing. Whereas the DAC is responsible for ALL training in the LEA, the primary training done by the DAC directly is for School Assessment Coordinators (SACs) and LEA-level staff who handle and/or have access to secure test material.

The SAC receives training from the DAC. The SAC is then responsible to oversee all aspects of test administration in a building, including training Test Administrators (TAs), proctors, and other building level staff

The Handbook *for Assessment Coordinators* provides more information related to training.

Roles and Responsibilities: Test Administration

The following lists the general roles and responsibilities for DACs, SACs/Principals, TAs/Proctors, and general personnel before, during, and after test administration. The lists are not exhaustive but provide a general overview of the most important responsibilities each role has in test administration. In some cases responsibilities may overlap between or among roles. In these cases it is the responsibility of the DAC to determine who has the primary responsibility and is accountable for specific duties, especially when duties may be shared.

1 District Assessment Coordinator Test Security Guidelines

General Statement: Maintain the security and integrity of all assessment materials, prevent any dishonest or fraudulent behavior in the administration and handling of the assessment, and promote a fair and equitable testing environment in order to obtain reliable and valid student scores.

Before Test Administration

Attend PDE annual trainings for the administration of the assessments, including the *Accommodations Guidelines* training, in order to be properly informed of the procedures to follow. This training includes understanding test security and the confidential and proprietary nature of the assessment materials.

Update *eDIRECT* accounts for LEA and school users.

Upload documents to the Test Administration Management System (TAMS) if participating in the online monitoring program.

Review the *Handbook for Assessment Coordinators*, *Directions for Administration* (DFA), *Accommodations Guidelines*, *Online User Guides* (if online testing) and other test-related documents necessary to conduct training for test administration.

Review the LEA's policy/procedures for home-schooled students

Review the LEA's policy for handling cyber-charter schools' requests to test their students.

Develop and maintain the LEA's procedure for parental requests to view tests (opt-outs).

Develop and maintain the LEA's procedure for handling emergencies during test administration.

Develop the LEA's master test schedule (including make-ups) that falls within PDE established test windows for each administration and include it in training. Ensure that the test schedule is developed so that sections are administered in the sequence in which they are printed in the test booklets.

Develop a training agenda and train SACs and other LEA-level staff involved in test administration or the handling of secure material. (See *Handbook for Assessment Coordinators* for more information).

> Ensure that SACs are trained on the Test Accountability and Security information contained in the *Handbook for Assessment Coordinators.*
>
> Ensure that SACs are trained on the *Accommodations Guidelines*.
>
> Ensure that all individuals involved in the handling of assessment materials and/or the administration of the assessment received instruction regarding test security protocols and procedures.
>
> Ensure that any individual who will administer and/or proctor the assessment completed the online Pennsylvania State Test Administration Training (PSTAT).
>
> Ensure that all individuals involved in the handling and/or administration of the assessment received instruction that all assessment materials, including all assessment booklets and other materials containing secure assessment questions and student responses, are to be kept secure and precisely accounted for in accordance with the procedures specified in the *Handbook for Assessment Coordinators.*

Ensure that SACs fully understand the policy regarding electronic devices, including cell phones.

Ensure that all individuals who assist in the administration of the assessment and all individuals who have access to the secure assessment materials have been made aware that they are not in any manner to alter or cause the alteration of any examinee response, assessment booklet, or papers used by examinees.

Communicate to students, parents, and the community what the assessment does and does not measure, when and how it will be administered, and how the results will be used. Refer to the Handbook for Assessment Coordinators for a sample Parent Letter.

Notify and ensure that all students and parents/guardians fully understand the policy regarding electronic devices, including cell phones.

Consider having a teacher other than the teacher-of -record administer the assessment to students. If local circumstances do not allow that option, consider assigning a Proctor to be in the classroom with the Test Administrator.

Receive and inventory tests without breaking the shrink wrap (ship–to-district). Report any items not received.

Distribute tests to school assessment coordinator(s) (ship-to-district).

During Test Administration

Visit testing sites to ensure successful administration of the assessments.

Make sure that sections/modules are started and completed in the same day.

Minimize distractions, including intercom announcements.

Immediately report testing irregularities/security breaches to the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

After Test Administration

Collect tests from school assessment coordinator(s) (ship-to-district).

Inventory, package, complete the Materials Accountability Form and return materials to vendor.

NOTE: District Assessment Coordinators should not open or look into answer booklets or test booklets.

Record the UPS Tracking Number for each package, noting the assessment(s) for which it was used and the content of each box. Please keep the number(s) for future reference to document the materials returned to DRC.

Failure to account for and/or return assessment materials constitutes a breach in security, the consequences of which can be severe, up to and including remuneration should it be determined loss of or misappropriation of materials has compromised the integrity of test items.

Sign the Test Security Certification (District Assessment Coordinator).

2 School Assessment Coordinator and/or Building Principal Test Security Guidelines

General Statement: Maintain the security and integrity of all assessment materials, prevent any dishonest or fraudulent behavior in the administration and handling of the assessment, and promote a fair and equitable testing environment in order to obtain reliable and valid student scores.

Before Test Administration

Attend the annual training for School Assessment Coordinators provided by the DAC.

Review *DFA*'s, the *Handbook for Assessment Coordinators*, accommodations guidelines and *Online User Guides* (if testing online)

Develop a building level master test schedule (including make-ups) that falls within PDE established test windows for each administration and include it in training. Ensure that the test schedule is developed so that sections are administered in the sequence in which they are printed in the test booklets.

Develop an agenda and train Test Administrators, Proctors and other building level personnel (see *Handbook for Assessment Coordinators* for more information).

Ensure that all individuals involved in the handling of assessment materials and/or the administration of the assessment receives instruction regarding test security protocols and procedures.

> Ensure that all TAs/Proctors receive a copy of the TA/Proctor Test Security Certification.
>
> Ensure that any individual who will administer and/or proctor the assessment completes the Pennsylvania State Test Administration Training (PSTAT). SACs should also complete this training.
>
> Ensure that all individuals involved in the handling and/or administration of the assessment receives instruction that all assessment materials, including all assessment booklets and other materials containing secure assessment questions and student responses, are to be kept secure and precisely accounted for in accordance with the procedures specified in the *Handbook for Assessment Coordinator*s.
>
> Ensure that all TAs/Proctors fully understand the policy regarding electronic devices including cell phones.
>
> Ensure that all individuals who assist in the administration of the assessment and all individuals who have access to the secure assessment materials are made aware that they are not in any manner to alter or cause the alteration of any examinee response, assessment booklet, or papers used by examinees.

Create and maintain a PA Secure ID master list (see *Handbook for Assessment Coordinators* for specific instructions).

Ensure all students are scheduled for the appropriate assessment.

Ensure that students testing online have prior experience with the online practice test that models the testing mode (online) and its tools.

Maintain a contingency plan for unexpected disruptions during testing.

Ensure monitoring software (spyware) is disabled or removed from computers, iPads, and Chromebooks to be used for testing.

Ensure all instructional materials that could aid students in answering test items are covered or removed from classrooms and hallways.

Make sure the testing environment is secure and has appropriate lighting.

Know the required accommodations for each student with an IEP or 504 Service Plan and for each English Language Learner being assessed and communicate this to the appropriate personnel.

Provide the appropriate testing environment for each student who requires an accommodation.

Inventory tests needed in "ship to district". If additional materials are needed, notify DRC. In a "ship to school" the SAC should order additional materials, if needed. Report any mistakes immediately.

Create Test Sessions in eDIRECT (if testing online)

Put labels on test booklets (Do not open test booklets while doing this!)

Place a "Testing—Do Not Disturb" sign on doors where testing is occurring.

During Test Administration

Develop and maintain a procedure for distribution and collection of secure test materials to Test Administrators each day utilizing a sign-out/sign-in process. It is recommended that Test Administrators count the test booklets in the presence of the SAC or his/her designee.

Ensure that Test Administrators are following proper testing protocol.

Make sure students are supervised at all times during testing and all breaks. This supervision requirement includes those students who need additional time to complete any test session.

Make sure that sections/modules are started and completed in the same day.

Minimize distractions, including intercom announcements.

Ensure secure process and procedure for extended time. Do not allow students to move to extended time location without a TA and do not allow students to carry materials to extended time session/location.

Ensure tests are in a locked area with controlled and limited access.

Report testing irregularities/security breaches immediately to the DAC.

After Each Testing Session

Collect all materials from Test Administrators.

Account for all test booklets and answer booklets daily. It is recommended that Test Administrators count the test booklets in the presence of the SAC or his/her designee.

Store testing materials in a locked, secure location.

Destroy only scratch paper and rough drafts.

After Test Administration

Inventory and return tests to the DAC (ship-to-district) or follow pack and ship procedures to return tests to DRC (ship-to-school).

> NOTE: School Assessment Coordinators should not open or look into answer booklets or test booklets.

In ship-to-school, School Assessment Coordinators should record the UPS Tracking Number for each package, noting the assessment(s) for which it was used and the content of each box. Please keep the number(s) for future reference to document the materials returned to DRC.

Failure to account for and/or return assessment materials constitutes a breach in security, the consequences of which can be severe, up to and including remuneration should it be determined loss of or misappropriation of materials has compromised the integrity of test items.

Sign the Test Security Certification (School Assessment Coordinator and Principal).

Ensure all Test Administrators, Proctors and other individuals with access to secure testing materials sign the Test Security Certification. If someone cannot or does not sign the Test Security Certification, immediately report that fact to the Department of Education.

3 Test Administrator/Proctor Test Security Guidelines

General Statement: Maintain the security and integrity of all assessment materials, prevent any dishonest or fraudulent behavior in the administration and handling of the assessment, and promote a fair and equitable testing environment in order to obtain reliable and valid student scores.

Before Test Administration

Attend the annual training for TAs/proctors provided by the SAC.

Complete the PSTAT.

Review the *Directions for Administration Manual* for the test to be administered.

Read and understand the Test Security Certification.

Cover or remove from classrooms or hallways all instructional materials that could aid students in answering test items.

Make sure the testing environment is secure and has appropriate lighting.

Review the *Code of Conduct for Test Takers* with students.

Review the Calculator Policy and ensure calculators (other than calculators provided within the online testing engine) meet the requirements of the Calculator Policy.

Know and prepare to appropriately implement the required accommodations for each student with an IEP or 504 Service Plan and for each English Language Learner being assessed in your room.

Review with students the possible local sanctions the district will enforce for student misconduct (e.g., cheating and recording test questions).

During Test Administration

Collect cell phones, smart phones, and other unauthorized electronic devices as students enter the testing site.

Ensure students are seated for optimal security and at the correct workstation (online test).

Appropriately implement required accommodations.

During the administration of the mathematics assessment, collect all used scratch paper after the non-calculator portion to ensure students have not recorded non-calculator items on scratch paper.

Actively monitor testing.

Collect test materials when students are finished testing rather than keeping them closed on the students' desks.

Students who finish early may sit quietly, read for pleasure, or read non-content related materials until all students have finished. Written work/drawing/coloring of any kind is prohibited to ensure students are not recording secure test content.

Immediately report testing irregularities/security breaches to the School Assessment Coordinator/building principal.

After Each Testing Session

Return all scratch paper or rough drafts to the School Assessment Coordinator to be destroyed.

Account for all test booklets and answer booklets daily and return all secure testing materials to the School Assessment Coordinator immediately after the testing session each day. It is recommended that Test Administrators count the test booklets in the presence of the SAC or his/her designee.

Failure to account for and/or return assessment materials constitutes a breach in security, the consequences of which can be severe, up to and including remuneration should it be determined loss of or misappropriation of materials has compromised the integrity of test items.

Clear the memory of calculators after each testing session.

After Test Administration

Sign the Test Security Certification (Test Administrator/Proctor).

4 General Test Security Guidelines

The assessments rely on the measurement of individual achievement. Any deviation from assessment procedures is strictly prohibited and will be considered a violation of test security.

School administrators, teachers, and any other education personnel who are involved in the assessment program must maintain the security of all assessment materials at all times.

Because the assessment must remain secure, teachers/Test Administrators should not have assessment materials in their possession at any time other than during the actual assessment administration.

Before Test Administration

DO NOT:

Teach students a test-taking technique that would require them to bubble more than one response to a test question and then return and erase all but one response.

Review student test booklets except for purposes as stated in the Directions for Administration Manual and any of the accommodations guidelines documents. Knowledge or review of test content is not necessary for valid test administration and is prohibited.

Note: Interpreters may have access to test materials three days prior to test administration to prepare for accurate interpretation of the test.

Reveal any part of secure copyrighted tests to anyone.

Copy or otherwise reproduce any part of secure tests.

Review and/or provide answers to test questions to students.

Possess unauthorized copies of state tests.

Assist in, direct, aid, counsel, encourage, or fail to report immediately any of the actions prohibited in this section.

During Test Administration

DO NOT:

Leave students unattended with testing materials or permit any student to leave the testing site with testing materials for any reason.

Permit students to have electronic devices in their possession.

Permit students to look ahead to another section or module of the test before being instructed to do so, or allow students to look back in a test booklet once a test section or module has been completed.

Discuss, disseminate, or otherwise reveal contents of the test to anyone.

Possess secure test materials at any time other than during the actual administration of the test. Test Administrators should be given the secure materials immediately prior to the administration of the test, and the materials must be counted and collected by the SAC immediately after the testing session ends each day.

Coach or provide feedback to students (e.g., answer any questions pertaining to the content of the test, review rough drafts, or give feedback of any kind including indicating to students any items that need a second look). This prohibition includes, but is not limited to, a Personal Care Aid (PCA), Therapeutic Support Staff (TSS), or any other one-on-one aide who is assigned to a student.

Define or clarify a word in a test item.

Read aloud any portion of the Literature Keystone Exam.

Read aloud the passages, multiple-choice questions or answer choices, or short-answer questions in Sections 2, 3, or 4 of the PSSA English Language Arts assessment.

Read aloud any part of a mathematics item that will cue the correct answer or provide a hint for the test taker.

Return a test booklet to any student after it has been turned in to the Test Administrator except for makeup sessions for absences and for students who go to another testing site for extended time.

Alter, influence, or interfere with a test response in any way, fill in any unanswered item, or instruct the student to do so.

Assist in, direct, aid, counsel, encourage, or fail to report any of the actions prohibited in this section.

After Test Administration

DO NOT:

Discuss, disseminate, or otherwise reveal the contents of the test to anyone.

Keep/save, copy, reproduce, or use any test, test item, specific test content, or examinee responses to any item or any section of a secure test in any manner inconsistent with the instructions provided by and through the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

Review student responses in the answer booklet.

Review test booklets containing the test items.

Alter, influence, or interfere with a test response in any way, fill in any unanswered item, or instruct the student to do so.

Discuss or provide feedback regarding test items.

Copy or reproduce any portion of the secure test materials or prepare/provide answer keys.

Erase or change student answers.

Make false or misleading statements about assessment results, including inappropriate interpretations, inaccurate reports, or unsubstantiated claims.

Erase stray marks or darken bubbles.

Assist in, direct, aid, counsel, encourage, or fail to report any of the actions prohibited in this section.

DO:

Immediately report testing irregularities/security breaches to the School Assessment Coordinator/Building Principal.

Sign the Test Security Certification (General).

M55053440338001

Copyright © 2015 by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. All rights reserved. No part of this work may be reproduced or transmitted in any form by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying and recording or by any information storage or retrieval system, without the written permission of the Department.