

## SC READY Grades 6-8

### Requirements for Calculator Use in 2025-26

#### General Information

The Desmos calculator is the recommended calculator for the SC READY assessments. The Desmos calculator is embedded into the online test engine. Using the Desmos calculator will reduce security risks and the burden on test administrators to clear memories on handheld calculators before and after testing.

The Desmos calculator can be accessed for free at [www.desmos.com](https://www.desmos.com) and used by students during daily instruction. However, the calculators available on the SC READY may differ from the free version. To learn more about the differences between the free Desmos calculator and the testing version used on the SC READY, visit <https://www.desmos.com/testing/southcarolina>. From there, download the South Carolina PDF and select the appropriate Desmos testing calculator for your grade level.

#### Online Calculators

Grade 6 students will have access to both the Desmos four-function and scientific testing calculators during the SC READY mathematics calculator section and the SC READY science test.

Grades 7 and 8 students will have access to both the Desmos scientific and graphing testing calculators during the SC READY mathematics calculator section.

#### Handheld Calculators

Grade 6 students may use a basic four-function or scientific calculator during the SC READY mathematics calculator section or SC READY science test. For SC READY science, all calculations are easily computed with a basic four-function calculator.

Grades 7 and 8 students may use a scientific calculator or one of the approved graphing calculators listed below during the SC READY mathematics calculator section. They must first follow the 'Procedures for Using Handheld Calculators' provided below. A graphing calculator most closely matches the functionality of the online Desmos graphing tool. Calculators *must not* have a Computer Algebra System (CAS).

#### Allowed handheld graphing calculators *(No other graphing calculator may be used.)*

- Texas Instruments: TI-73, TI-83 series (all), TI-84 series (all), TI-Nspire, TI-Nspire CX, TI-Nspire CX II, TI-Nspire with TI-84 touchpad (The TI-Nspire with TI-84 touchpad *must* have the TI-84 touchpad installed during testing.)
- Casio: fx-9750GIII, fx-CG50 PRIZM
- NumWorks: NumWorks graphing calculator

- Students who are blind and/or have visual impairments may use the Orion TI-84 Plus Talking Graphing Calculator with the Accessibility Attachment or the Orion TI-30XS Talking Calculator, as determined by the student's IEP or 504 plan. When using these talking calculators, students must use headphones or receive an individual administration.

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### **Procedures for Using Handheld Calculators**

To avoid test security violations and to ensure validity of the test scores, handheld calculators must have the most up-to-date operating systems and must be cleared as described.

#### ***Checking the Operating System***

The most up-to-date, manufacturer's operating system must be installed on all handheld calculators. Before testing, each calculator must be checked by the School Testing Coordinator (STC) or the Test Administrator (TA) to ensure compliance. The operating systems must be greater than or equal to the following:

- TI-73: 1.91
- TI-83: 1.19
- TI-83 Plus, TI-83 Plus Silver Edition: 1.19
- TI-84 Plus, TI-84 Plus Silver Edition: 2.55
- TI-84 Plus C Silver Edition: 4.2
- TI-84 Plus CE: 5.8.3
- TI-84 Plus CE Python: 5.8.3
- TI-Nspire using TI-84 Plus touchpad: 2.55
- TI-Nspire CX: 4.5.5
- TI-Nspire CX II: 6.2
- Casio fx-9750GIII: 3.7
- Casio fx-CG50 PRIZM: 3.8
- NumWorks: 24.3.0

#### ***Clearing the calculator memory, data, applications, and programs***

The STC or the TA, not students, must clear all calculators (i.e. scientific, and graphing) before and after testing. All memory, data, applications, and programs must be deleted from RAM and Archive. (The "Finance" App on TI calculators is part of the operating system and cannot be deleted.) Directions for clearing calculators can be found on the manufacturers' websites. The district or school must locate and distribute the clearing directions.

#### ***Test Mode for TI-Nspire CX and TI-Nspire CX II:***

The TI-Nspire CX and TI-Nspire CX II must be put into Test Mode to disable sliders and prevent access to data stored on the calculator. The directions for placing the TI-Nspire CX and TI-Nspire CX II into Test Mode are on the TI website here: <https://education.ti.com/en/high-school-state-test-map>

***Exam Mode for Casio Calculators:***

All Casio calculators must be placed into Exam Mode. The directions for Exam mode are:

1. Press [SHIFT]+[AC] (Off)
2. Hold [COS], [7], and [AC/ON] to power up the device with the Exam Mode prompt
3. Press [F1] (Yes), then [F2] (Continue?)

***Exam Mode for NumWorks:***

The NumWorks graphing calculator must have the memory cleared and be put into Exam Mode to disable Exact results, Equation solver, and Advanced graphing. The directions for placing the NumWorks graphing calculator into Test Mode are on the NumWorks website here:

[www.numworks.com/calculator/exams/south-carolina/](http://www.numworks.com/calculator/exams/south-carolina/)

***Additional Steps for Student-Owned Calculators***

Students must agree to the following steps before being allowed to use their personal calculator:

1. Students should back up any data, applications, or programs they wish to save.
2. Students must turn in their calculator at least 24 hours before testing to allow the STC or TA to verify that an up-to-date manufacturer's operating system is installed and to clear the calculator as described in the previous section.
3. The school must maintain possession of the calculator until testing.
4. When the student completes the test, the TA must collect and keep the calculator until it has been cleared as described in the section above.

If you have any questions, please contact Lori Washington at [lwashington@ed.sc.gov](mailto:lwashington@ed.sc.gov) or Crystal Huckabee at [clhuckabee@ed.sc.gov](mailto:clhuckabee@ed.sc.gov).