Policy on the Use of Calculators for SC READY

To avoid test security risks, the SCDE recommends that online testers use the calculator tools that are built into the online test engine. Students should be given ample opportunity to become familiar with these tools during classroom work throughout the year. The Online Tools Training (OTT) is publicly available at the following link: https://wbte.drcedirect.com/SC/portals/sc.

School- or student-owned calculators may be used during the calculator part of the SC READY grades 6-8 math tests. Grade 6 test takers may use four-function or scientific calculator. Additionally, grade 7 and 8 test takers may use a four-function, scientific, or graphing calculator that meets the requirements outlined in this policy. For grades 7 and 8, a graphing calculator is recommended to match the functionality of the tools available for online test takers.

Use of handheld calculators must follow the requirements outlined in this policy.

Features that disqualify ANY calculator:
- calculators with a built-in computer algebra system (CAS)
- handheld, tablet, or laptop computers, including PDAs
- calculators with wireless capability, such as Bluetooth or infrared port
- calculators that can access the internet
- calculators that have a digital audio/video player
- calculators that have a camera or scanning capability
- electronic writing pads or pen-input devices
- calculators built into cell phones or any other electronic communication device
- calculators with a typewriter keypad (letters in QWERTY format)
- calculators that “talk” or otherwise make noise, such as AudioCalc

Prohibited Calculators:
- Texas Instruments: all model numbers that begin with TI-89, TI-92, TI-Nspire CX CAS, TI-Nspire CAS with Touchpad, and Voyager models
- Hewlett-Packard: HP 48GII and all model numbers that begin with HP 40G, HP 49G, or HP 50, HP Prime
- Casio: Algebra fx 2.0, ClassPad 300, ClassPad 330, and all models that begin with CFX-9970G, ClassPad fx-CP400

Examples of graphing calculators that currently comply with SCDE policy:
- Texas Instruments: TI-83 series (all), TI-84 series (all), TI-Nspire, TI-Nspire CX, TI-Nspire with Touchpad
- Hewlitt-Packard: None
- Casio: FX-9750GII, FX-9860GII (S), fx-CG10 PRIZM

The following steps must be performed before testing with any handheld calculator:

1. Check the Operating System:
Calculators used on SC READY must have an up-to-date, manufacturer’s operating system installed. Before testing, an STC or TA must check each calculator to ensure that
an acceptable operating system is installed. This check must also be performed for each student-owned calculator. The calculators shown below are commonly used on SC READY assessments and currently comply with SCDE policy. For these models, the OS version number must be greater than or equal to the following:

- Texas Instruments TI-83: 1.19
- TI-84 Plus: 2.55
- TI-84: 5.2
- TI-Nspire: 3.9
- TI-Nspire CX: 4.4
- Casio FX-9750GII: 2.09
- FX-9860GII (S): 2.09
- fx-CG10 PRIZM: 2.02

2. Clear the calculator memory, data, applications, and programs.
An STC or TA must clear all calculators before and after testing. Four function and scientific calculators must also be cleared. Cleared means that all the memory, data, applications, and programs have been 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 manufacturer’s websites. It is the STC’s responsibility to locate and distribute clearing directions for school-owned calculators.

Student-Owned Calculators and Test Security
Students who wish to use their own calculator during the test must be told to back up any data, applications, or programs they wish to save. Students must turn in their calculator at least one day before the test to allow the STC or TA to verify that an up-to-date manufacturer’s operating system is installed and to clear the calculator. Cleared means that all the memory, data, applications, and programs have been deleted from RAM and Archive. (The “Finance” App on TI calculators is part of the operating system and cannot be deleted.) The school must then maintain possession of the calculator until after testing when it must be cleared again before it is returned to the student. If a student is unwilling to have his or her calculator cleared, then the student may not use that calculator during any testing.