PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



CALCULATOR POLICY

If a student chooses to use a calculator on the PSSA, PSSA-M, or Keystone Exams (other than the online calculator options), the student must adhere to the guidelines listed below. It is incumbent upon the School Test Coordinator to ensure all calculator policies are implemented and followed.

The following are **NOT** allowed for the PSSA, PSSA-M, or Keystone Exams.

- Non-calculators such as cell phones, PDAs, laptops, minicomputers, pocket organizers, etc.
- Calculators with beaming capabilities, unless the beaming capabilities are disabled
- Calculators with wireless communication technologies, unless the wireless communication technologies are disabled
- Calculators with QWERTY keyboards, typewriter-like keyboards, or keypads (e.g., Dvorak)
- Calculators with built in Computer Algebra Systems CAS
- Calculators that make noise, have paper tape, need to be plugged in, or talk; these specific calculators can only be used as a required accommodation as stated in the Accommodations Manual
- Calculators shared by students during a test session
- Any and all pre-installed, non-factory programs in a calculator

The School Test Coordinator must ensure all calculators being used for the assessment have no programs stored in the memory other than those that are factory installed. This mostly pertains to graphing and/or scientific calculators. These programs must be deleted prior to using the calculator on the assessment. Also, the memory must be cleared on the calculator following each test session of the assessment. If a student wishes to restore any programs that will be deleted, the student will have to back up the programs prior to taking the assessment.

This Calculator Policy is intended to be a general description of what is not allowed. It is not meant to be an exhaustive list of specific calculators, devices, or technologies that cannot be used on the PSSA, PSSA-M, or Keystone Exams. Please note as technology changes, this policy may also change.