



Office of the State Superintendent of Education



# 2011-12 DC CAS TEST INTEGRITY

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# DC CAS TESTING 2011 OVERVIEW



- The District of Columbia Comprehensive Assessment System (DC CAS) is administered annually to approximately 35,000 students in grades 3<sup>rd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>
- Students are tested in mathematics, reading, composition, science, and biology
- In April 2011, the DC CAS was administered in 262 schools across the District
- DC CAS scores are used for many high stakes decisions

# PREVENTIVE MEASURES



- Training for test chairpersons
- 80 schools identified for monitoring by OSSE
- Testing “Violation Form” title was changed to “Incident Report”
- Test security seals were placed on test booklets
- Material tracking procedures were implemented

# DETECTION



- Forensic analysis was conducted using three flagging criteria:
  - Wrong-to-Right Erasures
  - Student Growth
  - Within-Classroom Variance
- Classrooms flagged in 2 of the 3 criteria, or when consecutive years of wrong-to-right erasure flags were investigated
- Of 5,089 classrooms tested, OSSE flagged 34 classrooms
- LEAs were given the opportunity to flag additional classrooms
  - DCPS flagged 36 additional classrooms
- **Total flagged:** 70 classrooms (38 schools)
  - 60 DCPS Classrooms (30 schools)
  - 10 PCS Classrooms (8 schools)

# INVESTIGATION



- In past practice, once notified by OSSE, LEAs conducted their own investigations
- This year, for the first time, OSSE hired A&M, an independent vendor, to conduct investigations
- LEAs were given the opportunity to flag additional classrooms if they deemed it necessary
  - DCPS added 36 classrooms
- A total of 70 classrooms were investigated in 38 schools

# INVESTIGATION PROCESS



## OSSE generated roster of 2011 classrooms to investigate

- OSSE received wrong-to-right erasure results from CTB/McGraw Hill
- OSSE identified classrooms with unusual student growth
- OSSE ran analysis of variation within classroom
- OSSE combined three analyses with the 2010 wrong-to-right erasure report
- DCPS provided OSSE with additional classrooms

## OSSE provided vendor with list of classrooms and forensic data

- A&M reviewed OSSE test documents
- OSSE and A&M discussed investigative protocols
- A&M conducted the investigations
- A&M gave OSSE reports of findings
- OSSE made final determinations

# OSSE Flagging Methodology

Robust Methodology



## **Achievement Metrics**

*Use multiple measures of student-level performance on the 2011 test*

## **Answer Sheet Analyses**

*CTB identifies classrooms with unusual rates of wrong-to-right erasures*

1

### **DC CAS Growth Percentile**

Classrooms are flagged for unusually high MGPs from DC CAS '10 to DC CAS '11

2

### **Low Within-Class Variation Flag**

Classrooms are flagged for low within class variation in scores

3

#### **a. Wrong-to-right erasures 2011**

Classrooms are flagged for wrong-to-right erasures in 2011 by CTB

#### **b. Wrong-to-right erasures 2010**

Classrooms are flagged for wrong-to-right erasures in 2010 by CTB

**Classroom identified if 2 of 3 measures flagged or multiple years of erasure flags**

# OVERVIEW OF INVESTIGATION DURING SCHOOL VISITS



- Documented review of test binders, which included:
  - test plan
  - signature sheets
  - observer forms
  - staff non-disclosure agreements
- Interviews with select individuals including:
  - Principal
  - Test Coordinator
  - Test Administrators
  - Proctors
  - Other staff involved in testing where relevant
  - DCPS assigned observers where relevant
  - Students from 2011 flagged classrooms
- Follow-up visits and interviews occurred when additional information was needed



# RESULTS



- Confirmed cases of impropriety represent a very small percentage of public schools and classrooms in D.C.

	Classrooms	Schools
DC CAS Testing	5,089	262
Flagged for Investigation	70	38
Critical Violations	3	3

# TOTAL CLASSROOMS TESTED



5,089



# TOTAL CLASSROOMS FLAGGED



70



# CLASSROOMS WITH CRITICAL VIOLATIONS



3

# CLASSIFICATION OF FINDINGS



## **Critical**

Test tampering or academic fraud (e.g. providing students answers, use of electronic devices when prohibited)

## **Moderate**

Defined violations NOT test tampering or academic fraud (e.g. refusal to sign non disclosure agreements, use of cell phones)

## **Minor**

Test administration errors (e.g. incomplete or missing documents, inconsistent applications of test procedures)

# SCHOOL FINDINGS BY TYPE OF FLAG



- **Critical (3 Schools)**

- Martin Luther King ES (O, D)
- Langdon ES (O, D)
- Hyde Leadership (now known as Perry Street Prep) (O)

- **Moderate (9 Schools)**

- Banneker SHS (O, D)
- Kimball ES (O)
- Maya Angelou MS (O)
- Oyster-Adams (D)
- Prospect LC (O, D)
- Simon ES (O)
- Stuart-Hobson (D)
- Truesdell ES (D)
- EL Haynes (O)

**Key:**

O: OSSE Flagged for further investigation

D: DCPS Flagged for further investigation

Note: Nia Community PCS-Not Investigated/School Closed

# SCHOOL FINDINGS BY TYPE OF FLAG



- **Minor (11 Schools)**

- Browne EC (D)
- Kramer MS (O)
- Lasalle-Backus (D)
- Ludlow-Taylor ES (O)
- MC Terrell ES (O)
- Meridian PCS (O)
- MM Bethune (O)
- Ron Brown MS (O)
- Tree of Life PCS (O)
- Tubman (D)
- Columbia Heights (D)

- **No Issues (14 Schools)**

- Ballou (D)
- Brightwood EC (O, D)
- Cardozo (D)
- Hamilton Center (O, C)
- JO Wilson ES (O, D)
- KIPP DC Key (O)
- Leckie ES (O, D)
- Maury (D)
- Moten (D)
- Murch (D)
- Phelps HS (D)
- Raymond ES (O)
- West EC (D)
- Winston EC (O, D)

**Key:** O: OSSE Flagged for further investigation  
D: DCPS Flagged for further investigation  
C: Investigated/School Closed

# A&M RECOMMENDATIONS



## **For process improvements:**

- Align documents and streamline forms
- Create one central location for forms on OSSE website
- Require training materials that LEAs are mandated to use
- Collect documentation that school-level training has taken place



# SUMMARY



## 99.94% ARE PLAYING BY THE RULES

	Proportion	Percent
Investigations	38 of 262 schools	15%
Findings	23 of 262 schools	9%

- Tighter enforcement of protocols is needed
- Critical violations found in 3 classrooms
- Over 300 interviews were conducted by A&M