



Test Integrity: DC CAS 2011 Test Administration

Executive Summary

Introduction

The District of Columbia Comprehensive Assessment System (DC CAS) is administered annually to approximately 35,000 students in grades 3rd through 8th and 10th. Subjects tested are math, reading, composition, science, and biology. In April 2011, the DC CAS was administered in 208 schools across the District. DC CAS scores are used for many high stakes decisions.

The administration of the tests included a strategic series of preventive, detection and investigative measures. The measures implemented, as well as the results and recommendations generated by the investigations, are outlined below.

Preventive Measures

- Enhanced training for all test chairpersons conducted by OSSE and CTB/McGraw Hill
- 80 schools identified for special monitoring by trained OSSE staff during 2011 testing
- Testing “Violation Form” title was changed to “Incident Reports” to encourage open communication between OSSE and LEAs on testing irregularities
- Test security seals were placed on all test booklets
- Material tracking procedures were implemented for handling of testing materials

Detection

- Forensic analysis conducted using three flagging criteria:
 - Wrong to Right Erasures (compare classroom to state average)
 - Student Growth (unusual student movement between performance levels)
 - Within-Classroom Variance (not a bell curve)
- Classrooms flagged in 2 of the 3 criteria, or with 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 classrooms
- Total classrooms flagged 70 (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 Alvarez & Marsal, an independent party to conduct all investigations
- LEAs were given the opportunity to add additional classrooms
- DCPS added 36 classrooms
- A total of 70 classrooms were investigated in 38 schools

Results (38 Schools)

- Investigations were categorized by severity and resulted in the following:
 - Critical - 3 schools
 - 2 DCPS
 - 1 PCS
 - Moderate - 10 schools
 - 2 PCS
 - 8 DCPS
 - Minor - 10 schools
 - 3 PCS
 - 7 DCPS
 - No findings – 14 schools
 - 1 PCS
 - 13 DCPS
 - No investigation – 1 school
 - 1 PCS



Critical (2 Schools)	Moderate (11 Schools)	Minor (10 Schools)	No Issues (14 Schools)
Martin Luther King ES (O, D) Langdon ES (O, D)	Banneker SHS (O, D) Columbia Heights (D) Kimball ES (O) Maya Angelou MS (O) Hyde Leadership (<i>now known as Perry Street Prep</i>) (O) Oyster-Adams (D) Prospect LC (O, D) Simon ES (O) Stuart-Hobson (D) Truesdell ES (D) EL Haynes (O)	Browne EC (D, I) 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)	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)

Nia Community PCS: Not Investigated/School Closed

O: OSSE Flagged for further investigation

D: DCPS Flagged for further investigation

C: Investigated/School Closed

Summary

- Over 300 interviews were conducted by A&M
- Investigations took place in almost 20% of schools (38 out of 208)
- Issues of varying degree were found in roughly 11% of schools (23 out of 208)
- Issues of varying degree were found in roughly 1% of classrooms (49 out of 5,289)
- Tighter protocols are needed across the board
- Cheating confirmed in two classrooms

Rollout

- All LEAs reviewed their investigations (no appeals)
- DCPS and PCSB were briefed on Monday, June 18th
- Key Stakeholders will be briefed on Thursday, June 21nd (Council, SBOE, WTU and DC IG)
- Heads up will be given to LEAs on Thursday, June 21nd
- LEAs will receive their letter of determination on Friday, June 22nd



June 19, 2012