



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
OFFICE OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF

**EDUCATION**

**District of Columbia  
Test Security Guidelines  
In-Person and Remote Test  
Administration**

**2021**

**PARCC**

## **OSSE Statement Regarding Test Security Guidance During COVID-19**

OSSE is committed to the continued health, safety and well-being of all students, families and staff during the administration of 2021 Statewide Assessments. To ensure the safety of all, OSSE advises schools to adhere to all public health and safety guidance when executing any directives in the 2021 Test Security Guidelines.

### **Statement on 2021 In-Person and Remote Administration of the PARCC Assessment:**

This document is specifically aimed to provide guidance for the in-person and remote administration of the PARCC assessments in English language arts/literacy (ELA) and mathematics. In the 2021 Assessment season, PARCC is the only assessment that will be offered in both in-person and remote settings. Schools may choose which administration type (in-person or remote) works best for their school, students and staff. Please refer to the Statewide Assessments Participation and Performance Policy for School Year 2020-21 for the full policy language on required participation. For test security guidance for ACCESS for ELLS 2.0, Alternate ACCESS, and/or MSA, please refer to the [Test Security Guidelines](#) for those assessments released in January 2021.

#### **Special Considerations due to COVID-19 or Special Guidance for Remote PARCC Administration:**

Much of the test security guidance that OSSE will provide for the administration of 2021 Statewide Assessments will be the same for in-person and remote administration formats. This document will include the guidance that is the same across both administration formats and highlighted sections on new guidance for remote PARCC administration only. Any guidance that is different for remote administrations or new to both administrations due to considerations related to COVID-19, will be highlighted in a blue box like this one and labeled either **Special Considerations due to COVID-19** or **Special Guidance for Remote PARCC Administration**.

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## I. Introduction

The District of Columbia Statewide assessment program, administered by the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE), is of the utmost importance to the measurement and reporting of the achievement of students and schools in the District of Columbia. Pursuant to the District of Columbia Public Education Reform Act of 2007, effective June 12, 2007 (D.C. Law 17-9; D.C. Official Code § 38-1800 *et seq.*), OSSE serves as the State Education Agency (SEA) and performs the functions of an SEA for the District of Columbia under applicable federal law, including grant-making, oversight, and state functions for standards, assessments, and federal accountability requirements for elementary and secondary education.

OSSE has developed these Test Security Guidelines to set forth minimum requirements to ensure that local educational agencies (LEAs) and school personnel are aware of the state requirements for maintaining strict test security procedures. OSSE's goal is for schools and LEAs to deliver a uniform and equitable statewide assessment program. For assessments to yield fair and accurate results, the assessments must be administered, to the extent possible, in consistent and standardized conditions; and the best way to ensure that occurs is to ensure all teachers and administrators understand and recognize acceptable and unacceptable assessment practices.

## II. General Provisions of the District of Columbia Statewide Assessments

The District of Columbia administers multiple assessments annually in accordance with federal and District of Columbia law, including as set forth at D.C. Official Code § 38-1800.02(13) regarding Statewide assessments<sup>1</sup>. These Statewide assessments are an important source of data on students' progress and performance relative to DC's educational standards. They include, in spring 2021, the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC), ACCESS for English Language Learners (ELLs) 2.0, Alternate ACCESS, and the Multi-State Alternate Assessment (MSAA). The District of Columbia's required statewide assessments for 2020-21, per the federal requirements of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended by Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) (20 U.S.C. § 6301 *et seq.*) are:

- **Grades 3-8:** English language arts/literacy (ELA) *and* mathematics assessments yearly
- **High School:** Students must take one ELA and mathematics assessment in high school
- **Grades 5, 8, and High School Biology:** Science assessments yearly<sup>2</sup>
- **Grades K-12:** English language proficiency assessment administered to students who have been identified as English Learners (ELs)

Any federal or local law, regulation, policy, and guidance related to testing integrity and security shall supersede any directions indicated in the test vendor administration manuals.

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<sup>1</sup> This guidance uses the term "Statewide assessment" as the equivalent of "Districtwide assessment" which is defined in the D.C. Official Code § 38-1800.02(13) as a variety of assessment tools and strategies administered by OSSE to students enrolled in DCPS and DC public charter schools that: (1) are aligned with DC's content standards; (2) provide information about student performance on DC standards; (3) . . . are valid, reliable, unbiased and meet national technical standards; (4) involve multiple up-to-date measures of student performance; and in which all publicly funded students may appropriately participate, including students with disabilities and English language learners."

<sup>2</sup> OSSE intends to request a waiver of the requirements to administer statewide science assessments in school year 2020-21 from the U.S. Department of Education (USED).

This manual will focus solely on the secure management and administration of the PARCC assessments in ELA and mathematics.

### III. OSSE Responsibilities

OSSE is responsible for overseeing state-level functions and activities, as required by the federal law, Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended by Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 (ESSA) (20 U.S.C. § 6301 et seq.), and District law, the Testing Integrity Act of 2013, as amended (D.C. Law 20-27; D.C. Official Code § 38-771.01 *et seq.* and § 38-2602(b)(20)) (“Testing Integrity Act”). OSSE is also responsible for establishing policy, regulations, and guidelines that ensure statewide assessments are administered with fidelity. OSSE’s responsibilities include:

#### A. Before Testing

##### 1. Standards, Procedures, and Training

- a) Issuing test integrity standards to obtain and securely maintain and distribute secure test materials at least 45 business days prior to the start of the first statewide assessment of the school year, requiring at minimum that LEAs:
  - i. Maintain an inventory of all secure test materials;
  - ii. Secure all secure test materials under lock and key;
  - iii. Provide access to secure test materials exclusively to authorized personnel;
  - iv. Ensure all authorized personnel are notified of their test integrity and security obligations before being permitted to access secure test materials or assist in the administration of a Statewide assessment;
  - v. Ensure all personnel have received training and a testing integrity and security notification statement developed by OSSE prior to access of secure test materials or administration of a statewide assessment pursuant to section D.C. Official Code § 38-2602(b)(20);
  - vi. Ensure that procedures have been established for maintaining secure assessment technology platforms;

##### 2. School Test Security Plans

- a) Obtaining, reviewing, approving, and maintaining for public review, school test security plans, including but not limited to, the points of contact for the test integrity coordinator and test monitors at each school under the LEA’s control, policies, procedures and standards relating to securely storing, distributing, and administering the statewide assessment, assurances, list of authorized personnel, testing schedules, and a list of actions prohibited by authorized personnel pursuant to sections 103 and 201 of the Testing Integrity Act;
- b) Approving a school’s test plan *at least 5 business days prior* to testing;

##### 3. Additional Support

- a) Developing and providing standards for training and technical assistance for authorized personnel and LEAs regarding testing integrity and security procedures;

- b) Training LEA test integrity coordinator(s) in the statewide test security policies and procedures prior to LEA-level training of LEA- and school-level authorized personnel;
- c) Recording test integrity training attendance information;
- d) Providing technical assistance to LEA test integrity coordinator(s) during training and prior to administration;
- e) Establishing a process by which to ensure compliance with all applicable laws and regulations for the administration of statewide assessments for LEA students at nonpublic schools;

**B. During Testing**

**1. Monitoring (“Auditing”)**

- a) Developing and implementing standards and a process for monitoring (“auditing”) the administration of statewide assessments to ensure compliance with all applicable laws, regulations, and policies at any point during the assessment cycle
- b) Training OSSE state-level auditors in test security and assessment administration auditing policies and protocols
- c) Reviewing school and testing procedures to ensure compliance with federal and local law, and state regulations, policies, and guidance
- d) Auditing statewide assessment administration procedures at randomly selected schools and at targeted schools to ensure adherence to all applicable laws, regulations, and policies, which may occur one week before the administration of a statewide assessment and during the administration of a statewide assessment, pursuant to section 201 of the Testing Integrity Act (D.C. Code § 38-2602(b)(20) Providing real-time test integrity expertise response to potentially critical incidents.

**Special Considerations for COVID-19:**

OSSE will not conduct in-person monitoring of statewide assessments to reflect the health and safety needs of schools/LEAs. Instead of OSSE’s practice of traditional in-person monitoring, OSSE will be conducting virtual desktop monitoring during testing. OSSE may request pre-scheduled meetings with LEA and/or School Test Coordinators to discuss testing during test administration.

**2. Incident Reporting**

- a) Responding to incident reports from LEAs to ensure administration and test security issues are routed appropriately and resolved in a timely manner;
- b) Collecting, logging, and tracking incident reports across LEAs;
- c) Flagging any incident reports that require immediate intervention and liaising with assessment vendors when systems-based issues are logged.

### C. After Testing

#### 1. Test Security Closeout

- a) Collecting Test Integrity and Test Security Affidavit forms from each LEA test coordinator and each school monitor within 15 business days after the conclusion of the last statewide assessment;
- b) Maintaining final school test security plans on file;

#### 2. Assessment Results

- a) Reporting and managing assessment results releases;

#### 3. Test Integrity Post-Administration Review

- a) Conducting a test integrity review involving analyses of test results to ensure their integrity;
- b) Establishing standards for investigating any allegations of violations relating to testing integrity and security;
- c) Developing a process for sharing the outcomes of test integrity investigations with LEAs who are interested parties;
- d) Collaborating with LEAs to ensure accurate reporting of any testing violation while preserving the privacy of affected parties of a security incident; and
- e) Cooperating with investigations initiated by the Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia or the U.S. Attorney's Office.

#### **Special Considerations for Remote PARCC Administration:**

LEAs and schools are expected to share guidance on test security best practices for remote administration with authorized personnel, students, and caregivers, as appropriate. OSSE acknowledges that schools and LEAs will not be able to control all aspects of remote administration, and therefore schools and LEAs will not be penalized for such irregularities.

#### **Special Considerations for COVID-19:**

OSSE commits that only results that are appropriate for aggregation and public sharing will be released following testing this spring. In addition, OSSE will be providing support directly to schools and LEAs on how to best interpret their results and how to use released items and student data to inform their planning.

### IV. LEA Responsibilities

LEAs must perform all testing integrity functions and responsibilities detailed by sections 101-103 and 201 of the Testing Integrity Act (D.C. Code § 38-771.01 *et seq.* and § 38-2602(b)(20(C))). LEAs, or a school subject to an LEA's control, pursuant to the Testing Integrity Act, shall be responsible for compliance with the following functions to ensure integrity and security of the mandatory statewide assessments administered by LEAs. Failure to perform the following activities shall constitute a state test security violation.

LEAs administering mandatory statewide assessments may have additional or varying test administration requirements and prohibitions. LEAs are to refer to the **special considerations** through these guidelines and to the assessment-specific Test Administrator Manuals (TAMs) for specific information about these assessments. Remote supplements for the PARCC Test

Coordinator and Test Administrator Manuals (TCM/TAM) provide important updates relevant to the change in testing setting. The remote supplements are posted in PearsonAccessNext.

## **A. Before Testing**

### **1. Identify Authorized Personnel**

- a) Designate authorized personnel pursuant to section 103(a) of the Testing Integrity Act (D.C. Code § 38–771.03(a)), including LEA test integrity coordinator(s), school test monitors, LEA or school technology coordinators, and LEA or school special education coordinators (as applicable);
  - i. LEAs may choose to identify one LEA test integrity coordinator for all assessments or may choose to identify one LEA test integrity coordinator for the general assessments, one LEA test integrity coordinator for the alternate assessments, and/or one LEA test integrity coordinator for the ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 assessment.
- b) In addition to the authorized personnel listed above, the LEA may also designate Test Administrators and Proctors who will facilitate and/or assist in the facilitation of the statewide assessment.
  - i. The LEA-designated school test monitor may identify and designate the school-based authorized personnel roles (test administrators, proctors) upon LEA approval.
- c) Detailed descriptions of all authorized personnel can be found in [Section VI](#) of these guidelines.

### **2. School Test Security Plans**

- a) Submit to OSSE a school test security plan through the [OSSE School Test Security Plans QuickBase Application](#) for each school or campus under the LEA's control *at least 15 business days* before the administration of the first statewide assessment.
- b) School Test Security Plans must include at a minimum:
  - i. Procedures for the secure maintenance, dissemination, collection, and storage of Statewide assessment materials before, during, and after administering a test, including:
  - ii. Keeping an inventory of all materials and identifying individuals with access to the materials;
  - iii. Accounting for and reporting to the OSSE any materials that are lost or otherwise unaccounted; and
  - iv. Accounting for and securing old or damaged materials;
  - v. The name and contact information for the test integrity coordinator and the test monitors at each school under the LEA's control;
  - vi. A list of actions prohibited by authorized personnel;
  - vii. Procedures pursuant to which students, authorized personnel, and other individuals may, and are encouraged to, report irregularities in testing administration or testing security; and
  - viii. Written procedures for investigating and remediating any complaint, allegation, or concern about a potential failure of testing integrity and security



- c) Please consult the [2021 School Test Security Plan Exemplar](#) for the complete list of questions and format for the OSSE School Test Security Plan, including new questions for those participating in remote testing.

### 3. Training and Support

- a) Ensure all authorized personnel are trained, virtually or in person, in test integrity and security requirements as developed by OSSE and as developed by the LEA before the administration of a statewide assessment;
- b) Distribute to all authorized personnel of the LEA, including each school site within the LEA and nonpublic special education schools, the [OSSE Test Integrity and Test Security Notification Statement](#), informing them of the consequences for knowingly and willingly violating laws, regulations, policies, guidance or school test security plan;
- c) Ensure that the LEA test site(s) implementing computer-based testing is technology-ready in accordance with the applicable school test security plans submitted to OSSE and test-specific technology requirements;

#### **Special Considerations for Remote PARCC Administration:**

LEAs are to work with schools to create a plan to ensure that non-school test site(s) (e.g. student homes, distance learning hubs) implementing computer-based testing are technology-ready in accordance with the applicable school test security plans submitted to OSSE and PARCC technology requirements.

### 4. Test Security Management

- a) Maintain a hard copy Test Security File for each school under their control for a minimum of four years (an electronic file may be kept in addition to the required hard-copy version) which includes at a minimum:
  - i. School Test Security Plan
  - ii. Test Security Training Attendance for Authorized Personnel
  - iii. Parent Notification Letters
  - iv. Test Materials Chain-of-Custody Forms
  - v. Incident Reports
  - vi. During Testing Notes, including Minor Deviations from School Plan
  - vii. Plan to Improve School Policies and Procedures Forms (if applicable)
  - viii. Test Security Fact Finding Inquiry Forms (if applicable)
- b) Obtain, securely maintain and securely distribute testing material.

#### **Special Considerations for Remote PARCC Administration:**

OSSE understands that it may not be possible to keep the Test Security File documents in hard copy format at this time due to reduced or no access to school buildings. We advise that the School Test Coordinator keep these documents organized electronically in a folder. Once access to school buildings becomes available, OSSE asks that School Test Coordinators be prepared to print out these documents and keep them in a binder for the next four years. Test Security File documents are to be updated on an ongoing basis.

## **B. During Testing**

### **1. Test Administration**

- a) Administer statewide assessments as prescribed in the appropriate testing law, regulations, policies, plans and manuals (unless expressly amended in writing by OSSE);
  - i. Please see the appendix attached to these guidelines for links to the assessment-specific test administration manuals.
- b) Prohibit use of unapproved electronics during the administration of a statewide assessment, unless identified as an accommodation for an eligible student pursuant to section 103(b) of the Testing Integrity Act (D.C. Code § 38–771.03(b)), as explicitly identified in a student’s Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA – 20 USC §1400 *et seq.*) Individualized Education Program (IEP), a plan developed under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504 plan), or an approved accommodation plan for an English Language Learner (ELL) (Title I, III - ESEA) student,;
- c) Prohibit any form of cheating;
- d) Prohibit the allowance of extended time beyond the total testing time, unless expressly permitted in students’ IEP, (Section 504 plan) or EL Plan;
- e) Uphold the integrity of testing and accuracy of the data by preventing any dishonest or fraudulent behavior and promoting a fair and equitable testing environment.

#### **Special Guidance for Remote PARCC Administration:**

LEAs will be responsible for the prohibited actions committed by school and/or LEA staff, but they will not be held responsible for actions and behaviors of students, non-authorized personnel, staff or caregivers in a remote setting. LEAs should do their best to educate students and caregivers on prohibited actions by sharing policy, best practices, and school guidance.

### **2. Materials Management**

- a) Prior to, during, and following each test administration, maintain security of all secure statewide test materials, to include all testing materials containing or granting access to paper- and computer- based secure test items and responses, under lock and key or under secured, password-protected electronic access and prohibit unauthorized access to secure testing materials at all times;
- b) Follow assessment-specific chain of custody procedures;
- c) Prohibit unauthorized access to secure test materials<sup>3</sup>;
- d) Ensure schools return/dispose of all secure and non-secure test materials following procedures outlined in the appropriate testing manuals;

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<sup>3</sup> Secure materials are defined as “test materials that might contain or provide access to assessment content, such as information about test questions or answers, including test questions, passages, or performance tasks, answer documents, and used scratch paper.” (D.C. Code § 38-2602(b)(20)(O)(iii-1))

- e) Follow specific instructions on materials management in the TAMs and/or Test Coordinator Manual (TCM) for PARCC;

**Special Guidance for Remote PARCC Administration:**

The following are considered secure materials for remote PARCC administration: student testing tickets/login information; assessment content displayed on the testing browser; and used scratch paper. LEAs are responsible for oversight. The School Test Coordinator is responsible for determining the best way to securely and electronically distribute test tickets and to advise individuals on how to destroy used scratch paper. Schools are to develop and implement a plan for how to maintain security of secure content in a remote format. Details and best practices are included in the Remote Testing Supplements to the Test Coordinator and Test Administrator Manuals.

Paper accommodations such as Braille, large print, and paper-based forms are to be administered **in person only** for security reasons. School Test Coordinators are to manage the security of these documents. Refer to the [PARCC Testing Accommodations Guides](#) for details on administration of accommodations during remote administration.

**3. Monitoring**

- a) Monitor the administration of statewide assessments to ensure that applicable federal and local assessment law, regulations, policies, plans, and manuals are being followed.

**Special Considerations for COVID-19:**

Monitoring of assessments should be designed to reflect the health and safety needs of schools, staff, and students. LEAs are to determine their specific plans for monitoring assessments in both in-person and remote settings, as appropriate. This may include a combination of desktop monitoring and possible onsite visits, as appropriate.

**4. Test Security Reporting**

- a) Follow the process for resolving technical difficulties outlined in test manuals and any relevant guidance, and report computer-based/online difficulties that impact test administration;
- b) Any person who witnesses or believes a test security violation occurred must report it as soon as possible, ideally no later than 24 hours, after the alleged violation occurred. Potential violations may be reported directly to the school test monitor or the LEA test integrity coordinator(s); to OSSE's Division of Data, Assessment, and Research (DAR); anonymously to the test integrity coordinator, or anonymously online using the OSSE Incident Report Form. LEA

test integrity coordinator(s) are required to submit any alleged test security violations to OSSE.

**Special Considerations for Remote PARCC Administration:**

LEAs are to report test security irregularities or violations on an ongoing basis. LEAs are expected to share with schools guidance on test security best practices for remote administration. OSSE acknowledges that LEAs will not be able to control all aspects of remote administration, and therefore schools and LEAs will not be penalized for such irregularities.

**C. After Testing**

**1. Affidavits**

- a) Within 10 business days after the conclusion of each statewide assessment, the LEA Test Coordinator must obtain signed, under penalty of law, affidavits from the LEA's test integrity coordinator(s) and each of the LEA's school test monitors attesting that, to the best of their knowledge or belief, the LEA or school complied with all applicable laws, regulations, policies and guidance, including the test security plan.
- b) Within 15 business days after conclusion of each statewide assessment, the LEA Test Coordinator file with OSSE the affidavit provided by OSSE affirming compliance with all applicable laws, regulations, policies and guidance, and the test security plan.

**2. Test Security Reporting**

- a) Investigate, document, and report to OSSE any findings and recommendations for the remediation of an allegation of the failure of the test security plan or other testing integrity and security protocol; and
- b) Cooperatively participate with OSSE in any OSSE-initiated post-test administration investigation and inquiry.

There are two permitted deviations from the above LEA requirements. The first permitted deviation is for approved accommodation(s) for eligible students that are explicitly identified on a student's IEP developed under IDEA and Chapter 30 (Special Education) in subtitle 5-E of the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations, including Section 3016 (Assistive Technologies), or an approved accommodation plan for a EL student, or Section 504 plan; provided that any accommodation shall be limited to the eligible student (*see* D.C. Official Code § 38-1800.02(13)(E)). Any accommodations must be:

1. Limited to the eligible student or students;
2. Based on explicit direction in an IEP, Section 504 plan or EL plan or guideline; administered strictly as outlined in the appropriate test manual (*see* Testing Integrity Act, Sec. 104(a)(4)(b) (D.C. Code § 38-771.04(a)(4)(b)); and
3. Included in the [OSSE Testing Accommodations Guide](#) for PARCC, MSAA, ACCESS for ELLs 2.0, and Alternate ACCESS.

The second permitted deviations are actions to support students to stay on task and focused, as defined and described as an acceptable action under OSSE guidance, and that do not impact the content of students' answers. Acceptable actions shall be limited to:

1. Announcements to the entire testing group of time remaining on test;
2. Announcements to the entire testing group reminding students to stay on task;
3. Announcements to the entire testing group reminding students to abide by school and/or LEA rules and/or processes;
4. Verbally but with minimal disruption to other students, waking up a student who has fallen asleep while testing; and
5. Verbally but with minimal disruption to other students, addressing an individual student's disruptive behavior;
6. Providing reminders to individual students to stay on task and focused during the assessment,
7. Providing visual cues to an individual student to remain on task.

## V. **School Responsibilities**

Schools must perform all testing integrity functions and responsibilities detailed by sections 101-103 and 201 of the Testing Integrity Act (D.C. Code §§ 38-771.01 *et seq.* and 38-2602(b)(20)(C)). Schools are responsible for compliance with the following functions to ensure the integrity and security of all statewide assessments administered by the school. Failure to perform the following activities shall constitute a state test security violation.

Schools administering mandatory statewide assessments may have additional or varying test administration requirements and prohibitions. Schools are to refer to the **special considerations** throughout these guidelines and to the assessment-specific [TAMs](#) for specific information about these assessments. Remote supplements for the PARCC Test Coordinator and Test Administrator Manuals (TCM/TAM) provide important updates relevant to the change in testing setting.

### A. **Before Testing**

#### 1. **Test Security Management and Planning**

- a) Maintain a hard copy Test Security File for a period of four years (an electronic file may be kept in addition to the required hard copy version), which includes at a minimum:
  - i. School Test Security Plan;
  - ii. Test Security Training Attendance for Authorized Personnel;
  - iii. Parent Notification letter;
  - iv. Test Materials Chain-of-Custody Forms;
  - v. Incident Reports;
  - vi. During Testing Notes, including Minor Deviations from School Plan;
  - vii. Plans to Improve School Policies and Procedures (if needed)

**Special Guidance for Remote PARCC Administration:**

OSSE understands that it may not be possible to keep the Test Security File documents in hard copy format at this time due to reduced or no access to school buildings. We advise that the school test coordinator keep these documents organized electronically in a folder. Once access to school buildings become available, OSSE asks that School Test Coordinators be prepared to print out these documents and keep them in a binder for the next four years. Test Security File documents are to be updated on an ongoing basis.

- b) School Test Security Plan Overview
  - i. Create, maintain and submit a school test security plan to LEA as detailed in the Testing Integrity Act and OSSE's Test Security Guidelines. While the school may create and maintain a school test security plan, the LEA must submit the plan at least 15 business days prior to the first day of assessment administration to OSSE to final approval.
- c) School Test Security Plans must at a minimum include:
  - i. Procedures for the secure maintenance, dissemination, collection, and storage of statewide assessment secure materials before, during, and after administering a test, including:
  - ii. Keeping an inventory of all materials and identifying individuals with access to the materials;
  - iii. Accounting for and reporting to the OSSE any materials that are lost or otherwise unaccounted; and
  - iv. Accounting for and securing old or damaged materials;
  - v. The name and contact information for the test integrity coordinator and the test monitors at each school under the LEA's control;
  - vi. A list of actions prohibited by authorized personnel;
  - vii. Procedures pursuant to which students, authorized personnel, and other individuals may, and are encouraged to, report irregularities in testing administration or testing security; and
  - viii. Written procedures for investigating and remediating any complaint, allegation, or concern about a potential failure of testing integrity and security
- d) Please consult the [School Test Security Plan Question Document](#) for the complete list of questions and format for the OSSE School Test Security Plan.

**Special Guidance for Remote PARCC Administration:**

For school year 2020-21, new questions have been added to the School Test Security Plan to reflect the addition of remote PARCC administration.

## **B. During Testing**

### **1. Test Administration**

- a) Obtain, securely maintain, and securely distribute testing material;
- b) Administer statewide assessments as prescribed in the appropriate Testing Integrity Act, regulations, policies and manuals (unless expressly amended in writing by OSSE);
  - i. Please see the appendix attached to these guidelines for links to the assessment-specific test administration manuals.
- c) Prohibit any form of cheating;
- d) Remove or cover displays related to the content area being tested and/or test taking strategies during the statewide assessments as detailed in Section VI.A below;
- e) Prohibit the use of unapproved electronic devices by students, unless identified as an accommodation pursuant to an IEP, Section 504 plan or EL plan except expressly permitted by OSSE (per Section VI.D below)
- f) Prohibit the use of unapproved electronic devices by test administrators and proctors during the administration of an assessment, except as expressly permitted by OSSE (per Section VI.C below);
- g) Prohibit the use of unapproved materials (non-electronic) during test administration; and
- h) Uphold the integrity of testing and accuracy of the data by preventing any dishonest or fraudulent behavior and promoting a fair and equitable testing environment.

#### **Special Guidance for Remote PARCC Administration:**

Remote Testing Supplements for the PARCC Test Administrator and Test Coordinator Manuals include detailed administration guidance for PARCC remote testing, including best practices for proctoring in a remote format.

### **2. Materials Management**

- a) Secure all statewide test materials to include all testing materials used to facilitate paper- and computer-based testing and prohibit unauthorized access to secure test questions and materials at all times.
- b) Prior to, during, and following each test administration, maintain security of all secure statewide test materials, to include all testing materials containing or granting access to paper- and computer- based secure test items and responses, under lock and key or under secured, password-protected electronic access and prohibit unauthorized access to secure testing materials at all times;
- c) Follow assessment-specific chain of custody procedures;
- d) Prohibit unauthorized access to secure test materials<sup>4</sup>;

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<sup>4</sup> Secure materials are defined as “test materials that might contain or provide access to assessment content, such as information about test questions or answers, including test questions, passages, or performance tasks, answer documents, and used scratch paper.” (D.C. Code § 38-2602(b)(20)(O)(iii-1))

- e) Follow each assessment’s specific instructions on materials management in the TAMs and/or Test Coordinator Manual (TCM) for [PARCC](#), [MSAA](#), and [ACCESS for ELLs 2.0](#);

**Special Guidance for Remote PARCC Administration:**

The following are considered secure materials for remote PARCC administration: student testing tickets/login information; assessment content displayed on the testing browser; and used scratch paper. LEAs are responsible for oversight. The School Test Coordinator is responsible for determining the best way to securely and electronically distribute test tickets and to advise individuals on how to destroy used scratch paper. Schools are to develop and implement a plan for how to maintain security of secure content in a remote format. Details and best practices are included in the Remote Testing Supplements to the Test Coordinator and Test Administrator Manuals..

Paper accommodations such as Braille, large print, and paper-based forms are to be administered in person only for security reasons. School Test Coordinators are to manage the security of these documents. Refer to the [PARCC Testing Accommodations Guides](#) for details on administration of accommodations during remote administration.

**3. Test Security Reporting**

- a) Any person who witnesses or believes a test security violation occurred must report it as soon as possible but no later than 24 hours after the alleged violation occurred. Potential violations may be reported directly to the school test monitor or the LEA test integrity coordinator(s); to OSSE’s Division of Data, Assessment, and Research (DAR); anonymously to the test integrity coordinator, or anonymously online using the OSSE Incident Report Form. LEA test integrity coordinator(s) are required to submit any alleged test security violations to OSSE; and  
Follow the technical difficulties process and report computer-based/online difficulties that impact the security of test administration.

**Special Considerations for Remote PARCC Administration:**

Schools are to report test security irregularities or violations on an ongoing basis. OSSE acknowledges that LEAs will not be able to control all aspects of remote administration, and therefore schools and LEAs will not be penalized for such irregularities.

**C. After Testing**

**1. Materials Management**

- a) Return/dispose of all secure and non-secure test materials following procedures outlined in the appropriate testing manuals and OSSE Test Security Guidelines;



**Special Guidance for Remote PARCC Administration:**

After testing is complete, the School Test Coordinator will need to communicate to students and caregivers that they must destroy used scratch paper and testing tickets. Schools and LEAs are not responsible for the actions of students, non-staff adults, and caregivers in a remote setting. Details on administration practices are included in the Remote Testing Supplements to the Test Coordinator and Test Administrator Manuals.

**2. Test Security Closeout**

- b) Submit Test Integrity and Test Security Affidavit forms for each school monitor to the LEA test integrity coordinator(s) within 10 business days after the conclusion of the last statewide assessment.

There are two permitted deviations from the above school requirements. The first permitted deviation is approved accommodation(s) for eligible students that are explicitly identified on a student's IEP, Section 504 plan or ELL plan; provided that any accommodation shall be limited to the eligible student (*see* D.C. Code § 38-1800.02(13)(E)). Any accommodations must be:

1. Limited to the eligible student or students;
2. Based on explicit direction in an IEP, Section 504 plan or ELL plan or guideline; and administered strictly as outlined in the appropriate test manual (*see* Testing Integrity Act, Sec. 104(a)(4)(b) (D.C. Code § 38-771.04(a)(4)(b)); and
3. Included in the [OSSE Testing Accommodations Guide](#) for PARCC, MSAA, ACCESS for ELLs 2.0, and Alternate ACCESS.

The second permitted deviation is actions to support students to stay on task and focused, as defined and described as an acceptable action under OSSE guidance, and that do not impact the content of students' answers. Acceptable actions are limited to:

1. Announcements to the entire testing group of time remaining on test;
2. Announcements to the entire testing group reminding students to stay on task;
3. Announcements to the entire testing group reminding students to abide by school and/or LEA rules and/or processes;
4. Verbally but with minimal disruption to other students, waking up a student who has fallen asleep while testing; and
5. Verbally but with minimal disruption to other students, addressing an individual student's disruptive behavior.
6. Providing reminders to individual students to stay on task and focused during the assessment,
7. Providing visual cues to an individual student to remain on task.

**VI. Roles for Authorized Personnel**

Per the Testing Integrity Act, LEAs and schools must designate an LEA test integrity coordinator(s) for the LEA as a whole, and a school test monitor for each school or campus under the LEA's control. OSSE also requires each LEA to designate a LEA technology coordinator

and a LEA special populations coordinator to support the LEA in appropriately implementing computer-based testing and accommodations. Each role is described below.

#### **Special Guidance for Remote PARCC Administration**

Trained authorized personnel are not required to fulfill their duties from within the school for remote PARCC administration, unless they are required to handle any secure paper test materials (e.g., human reader scripts). Only trained, authorized personnel may serve in these roles. Parents and caregivers are not to serve in any authorized testing role.

#### **A. LEA Test Integrity Coordinator(s)**

The LEA test integrity coordinator is an individual who is designated by a LEA to be authorized personnel responsible for testing integrity and security for the LEA in its entirety during the administration of a statewide assessment. Since school year 2017-18, LEAs are permitted to designate up to three LEA test integrity coordinator(s): (1) PARCC LEA test integrity coordinator, (2) ACCESS for ELLs 2.0/ Alternate ACCESS LEA test integrity coordinator, and (3) MSAA LEA test integrity coordinator. The LEA test integrity coordinator is responsible for and coordinates statewide assessment security across all schools or campuses under the LEA's control and supports all of the LEA's test monitors for each assessment they are assigned. Additionally, the LEA test integrity coordinator collects, and submits to OSSE, the school test security plans for all schools or campuses under the LEA's control. The test integrity coordinator must be an employee of the LEA, selected by the head of the LEA and capable of successfully fulfilling these functions. The LEA test integrity coordinator shall be available by telephone at least through November of the following school year for purposes of test integrity investigations and missing materials resolution.

#### **B. School Test Monitor**

The school test monitor is an individual who is designated by the LEA test integrity coordinator to be responsible for testing integrity and security at a school or campus site. There must be one test monitor for each school or campus under the LEA's control, including nonpublic placements. The school test monitor is responsible for creating and implementing all aspects of the school test security plan before, during, and after the statewide assessment at the school or campus site. The school test monitor coordinates security maintains data integrity within their school or campus and trains and supports all authorized personnel at that site. The test monitor must be an employee of the LEA, assigned to the school, and capable of successfully fulfilling these functions.

Nonpublic placement sites providing educational services to students enrolled at publicly funded DC LEAs must administer the statewide assessment to DC students and comply with all applicable federal and DC laws and regulations governing the state assessment. For the purpose of this guidance, nonpublic placements are considered school or campus sites under the control of the LEA(s) where the nonpublic placement's student is enrolled. Accordingly, a nonpublic placement site shall identify a school test monitor. The nonpublic school test monitor must collaborate with LEA test integrity coordinator(s) at each LEA for which the placement serves students. Additionally, the nonpublic test monitor is responsible for creating and submitting to test integrity coordinators, at each applicable LEA, a school test plan for that site.

**C. Technology Coordinator**

The technology coordinator is considered by OSSE to be authorized personnel and must comply with all the responsibilities and prohibitions of authorized personnel. The primary function of the LEA technology coordinator is to prepare the testing platform and the student and test administrator devices for testing. The technology coordinator shall also be on hand to address technical difficulties, and to facilitate and resolve testing technology issues during all points of the statewide assessment cycle.

**D. Special Population Coordinator**

The special population coordinator is considered by OSSE to be authorized personnel and must comply with all the responsibilities and prohibitions of authorized personnel. The primary function of the special population coordinator is to ensure that students entitled to accommodations and accessibility features have access to those accommodations and features on all applicable statewide assessments, and to provide training to authorized personnel tasked with providing those accommodations and features to students.

IEP or 504 plan team members are responsible for making decisions about appropriate accommodations and accessibility features for a student with disabilities. Failure to provide appropriate accommodations or providing accommodations to students who are not eligible is a direct violation of the Testing Integrity Act. The special population coordinator should be an employee of the school or LEA and should be selected by the LEA test integrity coordinator(s) or school test monitor. For additional information on accommodation and accessibility features, please visit the [OSSE testing accommodations page](#).

**E. Test Administrator**

The test administrators are professional employees of the LEA or a school and designated as authorized personnel under the Testing Integrity Act. The test administrator is responsible for administering the statewide assessment to students, must comply with all the responsibilities and prohibitions of authorized personnel, and must perform all duties assigned by the school test monitor. Please consult the assessment-specific TAM for extensive test administration instructions for [PARCC](#), [ACCESS for ELLs 2.0](#), Alternate ACCESS, and [MSAA](#).

**Special Considerations for COVID-19:**

In an effort to reflect the staff limitations/demands and health and safety concerns at schools, the teacher of record may serve as the test administrator for their students without the need of an additional proctor present.

**F. Test Proctor**

Proctors may assist test administrators with classroom management during testing, distribute and collect test materials, or administer accommodations as directed by the school test monitor and test administrator. As such, test proctors are considered by OSSE to be authorized personnel and must comply with all the responsibilities and prohibitions of authorized personnel. Test proctors need not be professional employees of the LEA or school, and may be volunteers, contractors, or aides. They must receive training in test security and test administration procedures from the school test monitor, and work at all times under the

direct supervision of a test administrator or school test monitor. Parent volunteers serving as proctors may not proctor the assessment of their own child.

**Special Considerations for COVID-19:**

We understand that there may be staffing challenges this year. Proctors will not be required during test administration if it is not practical to have one in the classroom or test session. Schools may determine if it is feasible or useful to have proctors in the classroom for in-person test administration. Parents are not permitted to serve as proctors, or in any authorized personnel role.

**VII. The Testing Environment and Exceptional Circumstances**

The following guidelines, pursuant to the Testing Integrity Act, address the testing environment, and include what a student can see, hear, or access (including via technology) during testing. The school test monitor or other authorized personnel shall designate an area(s) for administering the statewide assessment to students in tested grades. In an exceptional circumstance in which an individual student cannot be tested at the designated location, OSSE may require a site visit, demonstration, and/or memorandum of agreement as conditions for approval of the alternate location.

**A. Non-Permissible Bulletin and Wall Displays**

Any information regarding the content being assessed or test-taking strategies (including word walls and multiplication tables) are prohibited in the testing environment. The testing environment includes, but is not limited to, the testing room, hallways, stairwells, and bathrooms where testing students travel during the testing session. Such displays should be removed or covered prior to the first day of the statewide assessment administration and should remain removed or covered for the duration of active statewide assessment.

**Special Guidance for Remote PARCC Administration:**

LEAs and schools are to communicate to students and caregivers the expectation for a secure environment and share best practices. Best practices are outlined above and in the Remote Testing Supplements for the PARCC Test Administrator and Coordinator Manuals. OSSE acknowledges that there will be variation that is out of the school's and LEA's control.

**B. Room Setup**

The testing environment must be set up to ensure that students engaging in active testing are able to test independently without distraction or violation of test security. Students must be seated in a way such that they cannot easily view other students' screens. This applies for both large group and small group testing sessions. Students receiving accommodations that require student speaking (e.g., student reads aloud to themselves) must be tested in a one-on-one setting. Students receiving a human reader accommodation must be tested in a one-on-one setting or a small group setting with only students receiving the human reader accommodation. Students receiving the human scribe accommodation must be tested in a

one-on-one setting. Flexibility in designing the test environment is left to the individual schools. Some recommendations for room setup include seat students in every other seat; arrange monitors back-to-back; seat students in a semi-circle; seat students in widely spaced rows in every other row.

**Special Considerations for COVID-19:**

In the instance that authorized personnel must be close to a child in order to appropriately administer an accommodation, the school should follow appropriate distancing requirements as established by local jurisdictions and school policy.

**Special Guidance for Remote PARCC Administration:**

LEAs and schools are to communicate to students and caregivers best practices for ideal testing settings. Students are ideally situated in a location that is quiet, free of distractions, and comfortable. Best practices are outlined above and in the Remote Testing Supplements for the PARCC Test Administrator and Coordinator Manuals. OSSE acknowledges that there will be variation that is out of the school's and LEA's control.

**C. *Secure Closeout Procedures and Materials Permitted After Testing***

When a student finishes testing, the test administrator and proctor (if applicable) must follow the specific directions on test closeout written in the Test Administrator and/or Test Coordinator Manual. Test administrators are required to adhere to the scripts and read them word-for-word the first time through. Test administrators may repeat the scripted directions as many times as needed while delivering the script. Full group notifications may be given. Students may ask for portions of the script to be re-read or clarified. Test administrators and proctors are prohibited from telling or asking students to check their work or show their work. Test administrators may say, "Are you finished and ready to close out your test?"

Once the student has completed his or her test unit, the test administrator or proctor must collect and secure the student's assessment materials. If a student has extra time in his or her test unit after he or she has securely closed out the test, the following activities are permissible: test administrators may dismiss the student out of the test environment, the student may sit quietly and read books; the student may complete activities unrelated to the subject being assessed, or the student may have blank paper and pens/colored pencils/markers/crayons. Test materials must be collected by the test administrator or proctor prior to students having any other materials, and any blank paper used after testing must be collected by the test administrator and may not leave the test environment with the student. Examples of activities unrelated to the content being assessed include a crossword puzzle after a math unit, and a Sudoku puzzle after an ELA unit.

**Special Guidance for Remote PARCC Administration:**

Schools are to develop guidance regarding how students should notify the Test Administrator that they have completed testing, as well as what students who finish early may do. Test Administrators are to instruct students to dispose of secure materials according to the process established by the school or LEA. Refer to the Remote Testing Supplements for the PARCC Test Coordinator and Test Administrator Manuals for additional instructions for closing out test sessions.

**D. Cell Phones and Prohibited Electronics**

Unauthorized devices, including cell phones (including cell phone watches), may not be used in the computer-based testing environment by students, test administrators, or proctors under any circumstances. During the administration of paper-based tests, no cell phones may be in the testing environment at any point during testing by any individual. During the administration of computer-based tests, LEA test integrity coordinators, school test monitors and school technology coordinators may use cell phones for the sole purpose of coordinating technical support if it is necessary for a student to complete a test.

**Special Guidance for Remote PARCC Administration:**

Schools are required to determine the best way for students and/or caregivers to communicate if there are technical issues or questions during test administration. Cell phones should only be used for the purpose of contacting the Test Administrator or Technology Coordinator for assistance, if an alternate method such as a meeting platform is unavailable and if that is the protocol established in a school's test security plan. If the school determines that an additional device or cell phone must be used to communicate, the school must specify that policy in the School Test Security Plan and receive OSSE approval.

**E. Technical Irregularities and Difficulties**

If a student or students' testing device(s) experiences technical problems that prevent the student(s) from normal continuation of testing, the test administrator must alert the test monitor and technology coordinator. All technical problems and delays which significantly impact the administration of the assessment must be reported and documented by the test monitor as an incident through the incident reporting protocol.

**F. Use of Calculators and Devices**

For computer-based testing, grade-level appropriate calculators will be available through the test platform on calculator sections of mathematics units. Students may also use hand-held, grade appropriate calculators (provided by either the school or the student) on calculator sections of test units. No calculators are allowed on non-calculator sections of units, except when specified in a student's IEP or Section 504 plan.

1. Allowable calculators for the mathematics assessment include:
  - a) Grades 3-5: No calculators allowed, except for students with an approved calculator accommodation

- b) Grades 6-7: Four function with square root and percentage functions
  - c) Grade 8: Scientific calculators
  - d) High school: Graphing calculators (with functionalities consistent with TI-84 or similar models)
2. The following calculating devices are prohibited:
- a) Calculators with College Algebra System (CAS) features;
  - b) Tablets, laptops or personal digital assistants (PDAs) or phone-based calculators, except those that are being used as devices for computer-based testing; and
  - c) Calculators and electronic devices with “QWERTY” keyboards, except where expressly mandated by an IEP or Section 504 plan.

If a student needs a specific calculator for an accommodation (e.g., large key, talking), the student is permitted to bring his or her own, provided it is in the students’ IEP or 504 plan. If a student needs a calculator as part of an accommodation in the non-calculator section, the student is permitted to use a hand-held calculator.

Test administrators must confirm that the memory on all calculators has been cleared before and after the testing sessions and students may not share calculators within a testing session.

For additional information about implementing calculator accommodations as specified in a student’s approved IEP or Section 504 plan, please see [OSSE’s Accommodations webpage](#).

**Special Guidance for Remote PARCC Administration:**

Details on remote administration of accommodations are included in [OSSE’s Testing Accommodations Guides](#).

**G. Support Materials**

Individual statewide assessments may permit additional support materials, which will be specified in the testing manual if permitted. In the event that additional support materials are permitted:

- 1. Additional support materials must be located in a pre-determined location in the testing location;
- 2. All guidance and instructions regarding additional support materials must be followed; and
- 3. If schools allow students to bring their own permissible/specific support materials, they must be given to the school test monitor or test administrator prior to testing to ensure that the tools are appropriate for testing (e.g., tools do not have any writing or pre-stored information on them).

**Special Guidance for Remote PARCC Administration:**

If needed, schools are to develop a plan for students who may need approved specific support materials. No support materials may have tested content, strategies, or pre-stored information on them. Reminder: Schools and LEAs will not be held responsible for actions of students and caregivers that deviate from guidance in a remote setting.

**H. Prohibited Materials**

1. English Language Arts/Literacy
  - a) Dictionaries or thesauruses (Note: Bilingual, word-to-word dictionaries, without definitions, phrases, sentences, or pictures, are an allowable accommodation for English Learner (EL) students); and
  - b) Any unauthorized resource or reference material that defines, explains, or illustrates ELA terminology or concepts or otherwise provides unauthorized assistance during testing.
  - c) Please reference the [PARCC Test Administrator Manual\(s\)](#) for the extensive list of prohibited materials for English Language Arts/Literacy.
2. Mathematics
  - a) Grades 3-5: Calculators unless specified as an accommodation in the student’s IEP;
  - b) Grades 6-8 and high school: Non-approved calculators;
  - c) All grades: Any resources that define, explain, or illustrate mathematical terminology or concepts or otherwise provides unauthorized assistance during testing;
  - d) Mathematical formulas and conversion tables other than the grade-specific, vendor-supplied material; and
  - e) Mathematics Reference Sheets other than the grade-specific, vendor-supplied material.
  - f) Please reference the [PARCC Test Administrator Manual\(s\)](#) for the extensive list of prohibited materials for mathematics

**Special Guidance for Remote PARCC Administration:**

Schools are instructed to communicate to students and caregivers that there are a number of prohibited materials that students are not to use during test administration. Reminder: Schools and LEAs will not be held responsible for actions of students and caregivers that deviate from guidance in a remote setting.

**I. Exceptions and/or Special Circumstances**

There are some instances and circumstances that may arise during test administration that may require special instructions or procedures for secure administration.



## 1. Absences and Makeups

- a) Students who are absent for any session that they have yet to begin of the statewide assessments may make up the test(s) during the testing window and in accordance with the specific days and times identified by the school in their OSSE approved School Test Security Plan.
- b) Schools may schedule make-up test sessions for different grade levels and subject areas in the same room, but the timing of the tests should be the same and special attention must be paid to ensure student are read the correct directions for their tests.
- c) Students without an extended time accommodation may not receive extra time outside of the testing time limits for behavioral issues that impact testing.
- d) Students with an “extended time accommodation” may only test until the end of the school day and may not test over multiple days without prior approval by OSSE.
- e) Students are not allowed to return to a testing session which they have exited after its initiation except in exceptional circumstances as individually approved and documented in writing by OSSE (e.g., weather emergency, fire or other event that requires building evacuation during testing).
  - i. Please note that “exited” is defined as a voluntary refusal to continue testing or exit from the testing room by the student without permission from the test administrator or other authorized personnel. An “exit” does not include authorized restroom breaks or any breaks students with “frequent breaks” accommodations as stated in their IEP, 504, or EL Plans.

## 2. Significant Medical Emergencies

- a) A significant medical emergency is an accident, trauma, or illness (mental or physical) that has been determined by a licensed physician to preclude a student from taking all or part of a statewide assessment. If a student has a significant medical emergency, the school may apply to OSSE for student exemption from testing, using the OSSE provided [Medical Exemption Form](#). Forms must be submitted to OSSE no later than 10 business days after the last day of the statewide assessment window.

## 3. Weather, Natural Disaster, Fire Alarm or School-wide Emergency

- a) If there is a school-wide emergency requiring evacuation, follow the LEA/school-wide emergency protocol.
- b) Student safety is paramount in a school-wide emergency; assessment materials should be secured after student safety has been assured.
- c) If this occurs, the test monitor must complete an incident report and submit to the LEA test integrity coordinator(s) and the state test integrity coordinator.

**Special Guidance for COVID-19:**

OSSE will be monitoring the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on statewide testing and will alert schools and LEAs immediately if anything changes.

**4. Homebound Students**

- a) Homebound and/or hospital-tutored students enrolled in public education in the District of Columbia must participate in statewide assessments, administered by a trained test administrator. When circumstances make it impossible to test the student at the school, the school test monitor must work with the LEA test integrity coordinator(s) to determine how the student will participate in the statewide assessment and notify OSSE in the school test security plan.

**5. Home-schooled Students**

- a) Home-schooled students' participation on the statewide assessment is voluntary. Parents and/or legal guardians implementing homeschooling programs and who wish to take part in the statewide assessment must notify their assigned neighborhood District of Columbia Public School principal and/or school counselor to facilitate test registration and inclusion in testing plans.

**6. Testing Students in Alternative Settings**

- a) All eligible public-school students receiving temporary instruction at a program or alternative school other than the school to which they are regularly enrolled must participate in statewide assessments. Students in alternative settings may take the assessments at the schools in which the students are currently enrolled or at alternate testing sites approved by the LEA test integrity coordinator(s) and OSSE.

**Special Considerations due to COVID-19:**

In this instance, an alternative setting does not refer to students who are in home or alternative settings due to COVID-19.

**7. Students with IEPs in Nonpublic Settings**

- a) LEAs must ensure that all eligible students enrolled at their LEA and schools subject to their control participate in statewide assessments, including students in nonpublic settings. Every nonpublic school or program must adhere to the Testing Integrity Act and the following District of Columbia requirements:
  - i. Ensure that every District of Columbia student enrolled in a nonpublic special education school or program is appropriately included in the statewide assessment system or alternate assessment approved by OSSE;

- ii. Ensure that statewide assessments are administered according to federal and state law, regulations, and state policy regarding test;
- iii. Comply with all federal and state law, regulations, and policy regarding testing and testing integrity;
- iv. Comply with all LEA and school level requirements outlined in this document;
- v. Create and maintain a school test security plan for their site as outlined above;
- vi. Work closely with the LEA to ensure that the nonpublic school test security plan is integrated, reviewed, and approved by the LEA test integrity coordinator(s) at students' LEAs of enrollment;
- vii. Maintain documentation showing that District of Columbia students completed the statewide assessment;
- viii. Provide any requested statewide testing documentation to referring LEA and/or OSSE upon request; and
- ix. In the event that there is a test security, irregularity, or data integrity issue, the nonpublic must contact OSSE and the LEA test integrity coordinator(s) at the student(s)' LEA(s) of enrollment.

**J. Prohibited Actions of Authorized Personnel**

As described above, authorized personnel are any individuals who have access to statewide assessment materials or are directly involved in the administration of a statewide assessment, whether denominated by an LEA as LEA test integrity coordinator(s), test administrator, test monitor, technology coordinator, special education coordinator, alternate assessment coordinator, test proctor, or otherwise, as defined in the Testing Integrity Act, who must comply with all requirements set forth in the Testing Integrity Act. Authorized personnel shall not conduct any prohibited acts, which include but are not limited to the following:

**Special Guidance for Remote PARCC Administration:**

Schools are instructed to communicate to students and caregivers that there are a number of prohibited actions that individuals are not permitted to do during test administration. Reminder: Schools and LEAs will not be held responsible for actions of students and caregivers that deviate from guidance in a remote setting.

**1. Test Fraud - Academic Coaching:**

*Authorized personnel are prohibited from:*

- a) Reviewing, reading, or looking at test items or student responses before, during, or after administering the statewide assessment (which includes student scratch paper), unless specifically permitted in the test administrator's manual (e.g., when delivering the human reader or scribe accommodation for PARCC or MSAA or when administering the Speaking unit for ACCESS for ELLs 2.0);
- b) Assisting students in any way with answers to test questions using verbal or nonverbal cues before, during, or after administering the assessments. Examples of prohibited academic coaching include:
  - i. Providing answers to a student;

- ii. Indicating that a student has answered a question incorrectly or left an answer blank;
- iii. Defining words or providing synonyms;
- iv. Spelling words;
- v. Influencing a student's responses by offering hints, clues, cues, facial expressions, nods, or changes in voice inflection;
- vi. Altering, explaining or simplifying, or paraphrasing any test question, reading passage, writing prompt, or multiple-choice answer option;
- vii. Providing any manner of assistance that could impact a student's answers;
- viii. Suggesting that a student write more on a question, check his or her work, show his or her work, or review or reconsider a question;
- ix. Reading a portion of tested content to a student when the student does not have a read-aloud accommodation;
- x. Responding to student questions regarding test content, accessibility features and accommodations, or the platform functionality during testing; or
- xi. Not following the protocol for closing out a test unit (e.g., asking a student "Are you sure?" when a student indicates that they are done testing.)

**2. Cheating:**

*Authorized personnel are prohibited from:*

- a) Allowing any form of cheating;
- b) Failing to actively supervise students at all times during test sessions;
- c) Allowing students to view or practice secure test items before or after the scheduled testing time;
- d) Using or allowing students' use of unapproved electronics or cell phone during the administration of a statewide assessment;
- e) Allowing students to use notes, textbooks, references, or other aids, unless the test administrator's manual or an approved accommodation specifically allows; or
- f) Allowing students to share test questions or consult with other students, school personnel, or anyone else during testing.

**3. Test Tampering:**

*Authorized personnel are prohibited from:*

- a) Altering student responses in any manner;
- b) Photocopying, or in any way reproducing, or disclosing secure test items or other materials related to statewide assessments;
- c) Altering the test procedures stated in the formal instructions accompanying the statewide assessments;
- d) Having in one's personal possession secure test materials except during the scheduled testing dates and times;
- e) Making or having in one's possession answer keys before the administration of the statewide assessment; except that it shall not be

- prohibited to have an answer key for a statewide assessment that has already been administered and released by OSSE;
- f) Leaving secure test materials in a non-secure location or unattended by authorized personnel;
- g) Making a false certification on any statewide assessment forms established and required by OSSE;
- h) Being present in the test environment or handling the test materials for one's own child or family member;
- i) Failing to count all test booklets and answer documents before allowing any pupil to leave the testing room and/or to ensure that all pupils have properly logged off the computer system; or
- j) Failing to observe the test material chain of custody procedures as outlined in the school's test security plan.

**4. Test Supervision:**

*Authorized personnel are prohibited from:*

- a) Coaching students during testing, including giving students verbal or nonverbal cues, hints, suggestions, or paraphrasing or defining any part of the test;
- b) Engaging in activities (e.g., grading papers, reading a book, newspaper, or magazine) that prevent proper student supervision at all times while secure test materials are still distributed or while students are testing;
- c) Leaving students unattended for any period of time while secure test materials are still distributed or while students are testing;
- d) Deviating from testing time procedures as outlined in test-specific Test Administrator and Coordinator Manuals;
- e) Allowing cheating of any kind;
- f) Providing unauthorized persons with access to secure materials;
- g) Providing access to secure computer-based testing materials (e.g, seal codes for PARCC) prior to administration, per the requirements in the test-specific Test Administrator and Coordinator Manuals;
- h) Failing to provide a student with a documented accommodation or providing a student with an accommodation that is not documented and therefore is not appropriate; and/or
- i) Allowing students to test before or after the OSSE and/or LEA test administration window.

Failure to comply with prohibitions set forth herein shall not be considered a violation of a test security plan if the action is: (1) necessary to provide for an accommodation that is explicitly identified in a student's IEP or an approved accommodation plan for an EL student; provided, that any accommodation shall be limited to the eligible student or students; or (2) limited to supporting students to stay on task and focused, as defined and described as an acceptable action under OSSE guidance, and does not impact the content of students' answers.

Accommodations that require test administrators to engage with secure tested content include: human reader, human scribe, human signer, and student reads assessment aloud to themselves.

**Special Guidance for Remote PARCC Administration:**

Schools are instructed to communicate to students and caregivers that there are a number of prohibited actions that individuals are not permitted to do during test administration. Reminder: Schools and LEAs will not be held responsible for actions of students and caregivers that deviate from guidance in a remote setting. Details and best practices for secure administration activities and remote proctoring are included in the Remote Testing Supplements for the PARCC Test Administrator and Coordinator Manuals.

**K. Secure Active Proctoring for Test Administrators and Proctors**

Test administrators are required to adhere to the scripts in the TAMs and read them word-for-word the first time through. Test administrators may repeat scripted directions as many times as needed while delivering the script. Full group notifications may be given. Students may ask for portions of the script to be re-read or clarified. Test administrators must provide only the time updates specified in the assessment-specific TAMs. Written updates at any additional time intervals may be provided.

Test Administrators and Proctors are to monitor the testing process (not individual students' test taking) by continually moving unobtrusively throughout the room. When pausing, test administrators and proctors are encouraged to stop in a place in the room where they cannot see student content (e.g., the front of the room). Test administrators and proctors may not engage in activities (e.g., grading papers, reading a book, newspaper, or magazine) that prevent proper student supervision at all times while secure test materials are still distributed or while students are testing.

**Special Guidance for Remote PARCC Administration:**

Refer to the Remote Testing Supplements for the PARCC Test Coordinator and Test Administrator Manuals for minimum requirements and best practices for monitoring remote test sessions. Schools are responsible for developing active proctoring procedures during remote testing and training all authorized personnel, including Test Administrators and Proctors, on those procedures. Reminder: LEAs will be responsible for the prohibited actions committed by school and/or LEA staff, but they will not be held responsible for actions and behaviors of students, non-authorized personnel, staff or caregivers in a remote setting.

**VIII. Questions**

Please contact [OSSE.Assessment@dc.gov](mailto:OSSE.Assessment@dc.gov) if you have general questions regarding this guidance. For specific technical assistance concerning test integrity and security, contact Chanon Bell, Assessment Specialist- Policy, Reporting, and Research, at [Chanon.Bell@dc.gov](mailto:Chanon.Bell@dc.gov).

## IX. Online References and Materials

- **Test Administration Manuals**

- PARCC: <https://osse.dc.gov/parcc>

- **OSSE Test Security Page**

This page houses all required forms, guidance, and documents related to test security including the electronic version on these guidelines, the Medical Exemption Form, the OSSE School Test Security Plan Document, and Test Security training materials.

- <https://osse.dc.gov/service/test-security-and-incident-forms>

- **Other OSSE Online Materials Related to Test Security**

- Test Integrity Act of 2013: <https://osse.dc.gov/publication/2013-test-integrity-act>
- Test Integrity Act Amendment of 2015: <https://osse.dc.gov/publication/2015-test-integrity-amendment>
- OSSE Test Accommodations Page: <http://osse.dc.gov/service/testing-accommodations>
- OSSE Test Coordinator Resources Page: <https://osse.dc.gov/page/test-coordinator-resources>