



Calculator Policy for Calculator Units and Sections of CMAS Mathematics Assessments

Allowable Calculators

- Grades 3-5: No calculators allowed, except for students approved for use of a unique accommodation (see below)
- Grades 6-7: Five-function (includes square root and percentage functions)
- Grade 8: Scientific

Additionally, schools must adhere to the following additional guidance regarding calculators:

- No calculators with Computer Algebra System (CAS) features are allowed, including graphing calculators.
- No tablet, laptop (or PDA), or phone-based calculators are allowed during CMAS assessments.
- Students are not allowed to share calculators within a testing session.
- Test Administrators must confirm that memory on all calculators is cleared by resetting the calculator to its default settings before and after each testing session.
- Calculators with “QWERTY” keyboards are **not** permitted.
- If schools or districts permit students to bring their own hand-held calculators for CMAS assessment purposes, Test Administrators must confirm the calculators meet the defined requirements.

Calculator Unique Accommodations

For students who received CDE-approval for the use of a calculation device on non-calculator sections of the CMAS mathematics assessments, the following calculators are allowable on non-calculator sections:

- Grades 3-5: Four-function (includes percentage function)
- Grades 6-7: Five-function (includes square root and percentage functions)
- Grade 8: Scientific

If a student is testing online and needs a calculator in the non-calculator section as an approved unique accommodation, the student needs a hand-held calculator as an online calculator is not be available through the computer-based delivery platform. If a student needs a specific calculator (e.g., large key, talking), the student can bring his or her own, provided it is specified in his or her approved IEP or 504 Plan.

Frequently Asked Questions about the Calculator Policy

1. Can students use hand-held calculators for computer-based assessments?

Yes. If they prefer, students may use hand-held calculators on computer-based CMAS mathematics assessments on any section where a calculator is allowable (grades 6 through 8). All hand-held calculators must meet the requirements defined in the CMAS Calculator Policy.

It is recommended that schools identify which students prefer to use hand-held calculators prior to administration to ensure a sufficient number of the appropriate calculators are available. Hand-held calculators are required for paper-based testing. Test administrators are responsible for ensuring hand-held calculators meet specifications, including verifying the memory is cleared before and after administration.

2. Can students use their own calculators on CMAS assessments?

Yes. Test Administrators must confirm the calculators meet the requirements defined in the CMAS Calculator Policy.

3. Who can receive a calculator during the non-calculator section of the mathematics assessments?

Only individual students approved for the use of calculation devices on non-calculator sections through the Unique Accommodation Request (UAR) process.

4. Can students use calculators on CMAS assessments that are allowable for higher or lower grade level assessments?

No. In order to provide comparability across schools, a student must use a calculator that is allowable for their grade level assessment. Assessment items do not require calculations above the level of the specified calculator. Allowing the use of a calculator that is designated for a lower or higher grade level assessment may unfairly disadvantage or advantage students.

5. Does my school have to supply calculators?

Maybe. All students participating in computer-based CMAS assessments are provided an online calculator within the computer-based delivery platform. If a student chooses to use a hand-held calculator, he or she may bring their own calculator or the school may provide the calculator. For paper-based assessments, all students in grades 6 through 8 must have a hand-held calculator for the calculator portion of the assessment. Schools must ensure a sufficient number of the appropriate calculators are available or allow students to bring their own. All calculators must meet the requirements defined in the CMAS Calculator Policy.

6. If a student has an approved unique accommodation for Calculation Device and Mathematics Tools (on Non-Calculator Sections of Mathematics Assessments), what additional mathematics tools are allowed?

A student with the calculation device and mathematics tools (on non-calculator sections of the mathematics assessments) unique accommodation may only use the following mathematics tools to aid in calculation:

- Arithmetic tables (e.g., addition charts, subtraction charts, multiplication charts, division charts)
- Two-color chips (e.g., single-sided or double-sided)
- Counters and counting chips
- Square tiles
- Base 10 blocks
- 100s chart

7. Do memories have to be cleared on every handheld calculator?

Yes. Clear calculator memories by resetting the calculators to the default settings before and after each testing session.