

State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR®) Calculator Policy

Calculators are required for the following STAAR assessments: **grade 8 mathematics, grade 8 science, Algebra I, Algebra II, and biology.**

Calculators are not permitted for students taking the STAAR grades 3–7 mathematics assessments or the STAAR grade 5 science assessment unless the student meets the eligibility criteria for an accommodation. Information regarding calculators as an accommodation for students with disabilities can be found on the accommodations webpage.

Requirement for STAAR Grade 8 Mathematics, Algebra I, and Algebra II

Districts must ensure that each student has a graphing calculator to use when taking the STAAR grade 8 mathematics, Algebra I, or Algebra II assessments. Students must have a graphing calculator to use throughout the entire test (both paper and online versions). Districts may satisfy this requirement by providing students with either of the following two types of calculating devices—a handheld graphing calculator or a graphing calculator application.

Requirement for STAAR Grade 8 Science and Biology

Districts must ensure that students have access to a calculator with four-function, scientific, or graphing capability when taking the STAAR grade 8 science or biology assessments. There should be at least one calculator for every five students taking the assessments (both paper and online versions). If calculators are shared during the test, the calculator memory must be cleared after each student uses it. Districts may satisfy this requirement by providing students with either of the following two types of calculating devices—a handheld calculator or a calculator application.

Additional Information

The district may provide calculating devices, or students may bring them from home. Students should be provided the same type of calculation device they use routinely in class work. Providing an unfamiliar calculation device on the day of the state assessment may hinder rather than aid the student. Students may have more than one calculation device during the assessment.

For handheld calculators, all memory must be cleared to factory default both before and after testing. Any programs or applications that are not preinstalled by default must be removed or disabled prior to testing. For specific assistance in appropriately preparing calculators for use during testing, contact the calculator manufacturer.

For calculator applications, all Internet capabilities must be disabled on the device. In addition, the calculator application being used must be locked down (in kiosk mode) to prevent the use of other applications during testing. Districts should be aware that some calculator applications include resources that could aid students during testing. Students must be monitored closely to ensure that these resources are not accessed during the test.

Calculation devices that have a computer algebra system (CAS) are not allowed. Calculation applications on smartphones are also not allowed.