

## Calculator Guidance for Grades 3-8 Mathematics Tests

### RECOMMENDED CALCULATORS

Calculators are important instructional tools that are allowable – but not required – for students to use while taking state tests. For students taking the computer-based tests, a calculator will be provided in the technology platform for the tests. The exact calculator for each online assessment is available for use during instruction in the [Student Practice Resources-Mathematics](#) on the Ohio's State Test Portal. Students may use handheld calculators for either the computer-based or paper-based test formats. Schools may permit students to bring their own handheld devices for test purposes.

State tests may use both calculator and non-calculator test items to assess student progress in learning each of the mathematics standards. Educators on content advisory committees review all test items to help determine appropriate calculator usage. Test items in grades 3-5 do not allow students to use a calculator unless the student qualifies for a calculator as an accommodation. Grades 6 and 7 tests will have both non-calculator and calculator sections on the tests. Students may use calculators on all grade 8 test items.

The Ohio Department of Education recommends scientific calculators for the grades 6-8 tests, but students may use calculators with lower functionality. Guidance on calculator usage pertains to the level of the state test rather than the grade level of the student. Schools should give students the opportunity to become familiar with the calculators they choose before testing.

Examples of **recommended** scientific calculators include, but are **not** limited to:

Casio	Sharp	Texas Instruments
fc-200V	EL-500W	TI-15 Explorer
fx-55PLUS	EL-501X	TI-30Xa
fx-115ESPLUS	EL-506X	TI-30XIIS (OGT Approved)
fx-260Solar	EL-516X	TI-30XS Multi View
fx-300MS	EL-520X	TI-34 Series
fx-300ESPLUS	EL-531X	TI-36X Pro
	EL-535X	TI-BAll Plus

*\*Scientific calculators absent from this list should not automatically be considered as prohibited*

### PROHIBITED SCIENTIFIC CALCULATOR FUNCTIONS AND FEATURES

Schools must **not** allow scientific calculators meeting these descriptions:

- Tablet, laptop, personal digital assistant (PDA) or phone-based calculators;
- Calculators with graphing functionality;
- Calculators with tape or paper outputs;
- Calculators with "QWERTY" keyboards.

## EXAMPLES OF ALLOWABLE FOUR-FUNCTION CALCULATORS\*

The list of allowable calculators includes, but is **not** limited to:

Casio	Sharp	Texas Instruments
SL-300SV	EL-S10B	TI-503SV
SL-450STP	EL-377MB	TI-1706SV
SL-450S	EL-R277B	TI-108
HS-4G	EL-243SB	TI-1795SV
MS-80S	EL-240SB	
	EL-233SB	

\*Four-function calculators absent from this list are not automatically prohibited.

## TEST ADMINISTRATOR GUIDANCE

- Confirm that the calculators meet the requirements for the test;
- Confirm that the memory on all handheld calculators is clear before and after each testing session;
- Do not allow students to share calculators within a testing session.

Math Tests	Testing Time for Section 1	Testing Time for Section 2	Maximum Total Testing Time
Grades 3 - 5	75 minutes Non-Calculator*	75 minutes Non-Calculator*	150 minutes

\* Students may use a calculator if they meet the criteria to qualify for a calculator as an accommodation

Math Tests	Testing Time for Section 1	Testing Time for Section 2	Maximum Total Testing Time
Grades 6 – 7	90 minutes Non-Calculator*	90 minutes Calculator	180 minutes

\* Students may use a calculator if they meet the criteria to qualify for a calculator as an accommodation

Math Test	Testing Time for Section 1	Testing Time for Section 2	Maximum Total Testing Time
Grade 8	90 minutes Calculator	90 minutes Calculator	180 minutes

## CALCULATOR ACCOMMODATIONS

If students qualify (according to their individualized education programs or Section 504 plans) to use calculators as an accommodation for non-calculator sections of the state test, the school must allow the students to use calculators. Students using this accommodation will be able to access the online calculator for the test's non-calculator section. Student can choose to use handheld calculators provided they do not have greater functionality than what is allowed on the test. If students need specialized calculators (e.g. ones with large keys or "talking" calculators), they may use their own, provided they are specified in their individualized education programs or 504 plans.

If you have additional questions regarding calculators, please contact:

### General Calculator Questions:

Brian Bickley  
Office of Curriculum and Assessment  
Phone: (614) 644-6814  
Email:  
[Brian.Bickley@education.ohio.gov](mailto:Brian.Bickley@education.ohio.gov)

### Testing Accommodations Questions:

Andrew R Hinkle  
Office for Exceptional  
Children Phone: (614) 644-  
7304  
Email: [Andrew.Hinkle@education.ohio.gov](mailto:Andrew.Hinkle@education.ohio.gov)