



**DC
CAPE**

DC COMPREHENSIVE
ASSESSMENTS OF
PROGRESS IN EDUCATION

Revised: January 2025

Mathematics and English Language Arts/Literacy Tools for the DC CAPE Assessments

The following questions are answered in this article:

1. Where can I find DC CAPE's calculator policy?
2. Are calculators embedded in the computer-based test for use during the calculator units (gr. 6–8 and HS), or are students expected to bring a calculator to the test?
3. How will students know to ask for a calculator when they get to the calculator part of the mathematics assessments?
4. Are calculators with memory allowable during DC CAPE testing?
5. Will rulers and protractors be provided on the DC CAPE assessments?
6. Are geometry tools allowed on the DC CAPE assessments?
7. If schools do not have geometry tools that are listed in the Test Administration Manuals, do they need to purchase them?
8. Can students use mathematics reference sheets from a previous administration?
9. Can students practice with mathematics reference sheets prior to testing?
10. May the English Language Arts/Literacy rubrics be provided to students during testing?

1. Where can I find DC CAPE's calculator policy?

DC CAPE's calculator policy can be found in Section 3.9.1 and 3.10.1 in the *Test Coordinator Manual*. Please refer to the policy for full guidance.

Allowable calculators include:

- Grades 3–5: No calculators allowed, except for students with an approved calculator accommodation
- Grades 6–7: Four-function calculators with square root and percentage functions
- Grade 8: Scientific calculators
- High school: Graphing calculators (with functionalities consistent with TI -84 or similar models)

2. Are calculators embedded in the computer-based test for use during the calculator units (gr. 6–8 and HS), or are students expected to bring a calculator to the test?

Calculators are embedded during the appropriate parts (i.e., calculator parts). Per Section 3.9.1 of the *Test Coordinator Manual*, DC CAPE policy also allows students to use a hand-held calculator if they choose, which would need to be checked by the Test Administrator to make sure it meets the DC CAPE calculator policy requirements.

3. How will students know to ask for a calculator when they get to the calculator parts of the mathematics assessments?

For paper-based testing, directions in the Test Booklet will provide the following instructions after completion of the non-calculator part: "Raise your hand to receive your calculator before going on to the calculator part." For computer-based testing, in-between the non-calculator and calculator



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parts, directions in TestNav remind students that if they are using a hand-held calculator, they must raise their hand and request the calculator from their Test Administrator.

4. Are calculators with memory allowable during DC CAPE testing?

Yes, calculators with memory are allowable as long as they meet the calculator policy found in Section 3.9.1 in the *Test Coordinator Manual* and are grade-or course-appropriate. Test Administrators are responsible for ensuring the memory is clear on all calculators prior to and after administration.

5. Will rulers and protractors be provided on the DC CAPE assessments?

Yes, for some grades, but only for paper-based testing. For computer-based testing, these tools will be available in TestNav8. The grade-specific policies are outlined below:

- **Grade 3:** Rulers are provided through the delivery platform for computer-based testing and in shipped materials for paper-based testing.
- **Grade 4–7:** Rulers and protractors are provided through the delivery platform for computer-based testing and in shipped materials for paper-based testing.
- **Grade 8:** Rulers are provided through the delivery platform for computer-based testing and in shipped materials for paper-based testing. Protractors are optional and allowable materials for Grade 8 mathematics assessments. However, they will not be provided in shipped materials, as they are not required tools.
- **High School:** Rulers and protractors are optional and allowable materials for all high school mathematics assessments. However, they will not be provided in shipped materials, as they are not required tools.

DC CAPE’s mathematics tools policy can be found in Section 3.9.1 and 3.10.1 in the *Test Coordinator Manual*.

6. Are geometry tools allowed on the DC CAPE assessments?

For the DC CAPE administration, tracing paper, reflection tools, straight edges and compasses are allowable, optional materials for the Grade 8 and Geometry assessments only. These tools are meant as allowable tools for students who use them in daily instruction and who may find them useful during administration.

Directions should be given to a Test Administrator to have the materials located in a predetermined location in the testing room. If schools allow students to bring their own tools, they must be given to the School Test Coordinator or Test Administrator prior to testing to ensure that the tools are appropriate for testing (e.g., tools do not have any writing on them).

7. If schools do not have geometry tools that are listed in the Test Administration Manuals, do they need to purchase them?

No. These are meant as allowable tools for students who use them in daily instruction who may find them useful during administration. Though schools are allowed to provide them as useable materials, schools are not required to purchase these tools for the purposes of DC CAPE assessments. Schools may also allow students to use their own geometry tools if they are first provided to the school prior to test administration to ensure there is no writing of any kind on them.



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8. *Can students use mathematics reference sheets from a previous administration?*

New mathematics reference sheets will be provided for each test administration. Although reference sheets will have to be collected and re-used between sections, schools will follow procedures for destroying the reference sheets after each administration

9. *Can students practice with mathematics reference sheets prior to testing?*

Yes. The mathematics reference sheets are publicly available on DC's assessment administration website. However, any reference sheet used in the classroom prior to testing are not allowed during testing. For computer-based assessments, the mathematics reference sheets are provided on the computer-based delivery platform. If desired, schools may also make printed copies available to students during administration. For paper-based assessments, mathematics reference sheets are provided in the DC CAPE-provided materials during shipment.

10. *May the English Language Arts/Literacy rubrics be provided to students during testing?*

No. Students may be provided access to the rubrics prior to the test for instructional purposes, but students are not permitted access to the rubrics during testing.