



## DC CAPE Mathematics Tools Policy for Mathematics Assessments

*Updated February 2026*

**Calculators (required for Grades 6 and higher):** Please see DC CAPE’s Calculator Policy available in Sections 3.9 and 3.10 in the Test Coordinator Manual.

**Rulers/Protractors:**

- Rulers are required tools on items for grades 3–8. Rulers are an allowable tool (but not required) in high school.
- Protractors are required tools on items for grades 4–7. Protractors are an allowable tool (but not required) in grade 8 and high school.
- For computer-based assessments, the grade-appropriate rulers and protractors are provided through the computer-based platform in grades for which rulers and protractors are required.
- For paper-based assessments, rulers and protractors are included in the DC CAPE-provided materials that are shipped to schools in grades for which rulers and protractors are required.

**Table 1 – Summary of Rulers and Protractors on DC CAPE Mathematics Assessments**

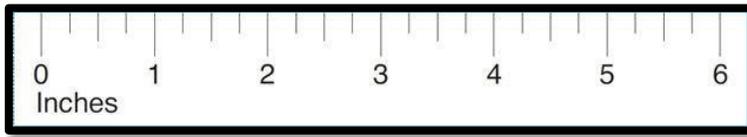
Grade(s)/Course(s)	DC CAPE-Provided	Allowable (Not Provided)
Grade 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ruler (1/4 inch)</li> </ul>	-
Grades 4–7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ruler (1/8 inch)</li> <li>• Protractor</li> </ul>	-
Grade 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ruler (1/8 inch)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protractor</li> </ul>
Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ruler</li> <li>• Protractor</li> </ul>

- Directions should be given to the Test Administrator to have any mathematics tools located in a pre-determined location in the testing room. Additional administration guidance will be given in the DC CAPE Test Administrator Manual.
- For grades in which ruler or protractors are allowable but not provided, schools may allow students to bring in their own tools. 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).

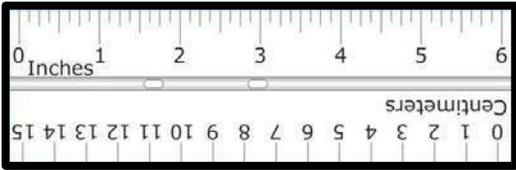
To practice with the computer-based rulers and protractors, please visit the DC CAPE Practice Test at: <https://dc.mypearsonsupport.com/practice-tests.html>

# DC CAPE Mathematics Tools Policy

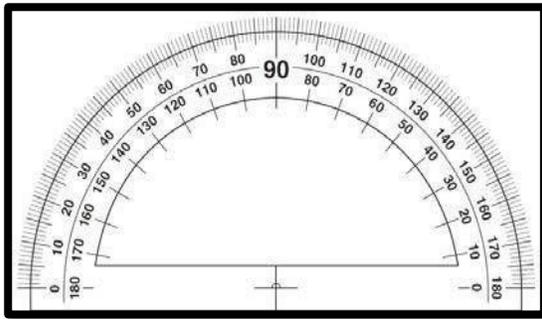
Grade 3 ruler provided on the DC CAPE paper-based assessments



Grades 4–8 ruler provided on the DC CAPE paper-based assessments:



Grades 4–7 protractor provided on the DC CAPE paper-based assessments:



## Mathematics Reference Sheets (provided):

- 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.

## Graph Paper (allowable):

- Graph paper is allowable at all grade levels/courses for the DC CAPE assessments.

## Geometry Tools (allowable):

- Tracing paper, reflection tools, straight edge and compass are allowable materials for the grade 8 and Geometry assessments (not allowable for grades 3–7 and Algebra I and Algebra II).
- Directions should be given to the Test Administrator to have the materials located in a pre-determined location in the testing room. Additional administration guidance will be given in the DC CAPE Test Administrator Manual.
- 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).



## Frequently Asked Questions about the DC CAPE Mathematics Tools Policy

**1. Can schools or students provide their own rulers and protractors?**

Schools cannot provide their own rulers and protractors in the grades where rulers and protractors are required tools. For paper-based assessments, rulers and protractors will be provided in the materials shipment and schools must distribute these as part of the testing materials. For the computer-based administration, rulers and protractors will be available through the online platform. For grades in which rulers or protractors are allowable but not provided, schools may allow students to bring in their own tools. 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).

**2. Is it required for schools to make graph paper available?**

No. Graph paper is an allowable material, but it is not required. However, students may find graph paper helpful during administration if graph paper is used in daily instruction.

**3. 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 and who may find them useful during administration. If the tools are provided to students during administration, it is recommended to ensure that students have ample opportunity to practice with DC CAPE items using these tools.

Though schools are allowed to provide the tools as useable materials, schools are not required to purchase these tools for the purposes of DC CAPE Assessments, as they are not directly needed to answer DC CAPE items, and students will not be disadvantaged by not having the tools during administration.

**4. Are the geometry tools listed as allowable materials available on the computer-based delivery platform?**

No. The geometry tools (tracing paper, reflection tools, straight edge, and compass) are allowable as hand-held tools, but are not provided on the computer-based delivery platform. Students may use the tools when working out problems on scratch paper.

**5. Can students practice with math reference sheets prior to testing?**

Yes. It is encouraged that schools give students an opportunity to become familiar with the DC CAPE mathematics reference sheets.