

Information for Parents/ Guardians & Students

Pennsylvania State Assessment System



TEST SECURITY FOR PSSA & KEYSTONE EXAMS

Unauthorized use of cell phones and electronic devices during state testing

The Pennsylvania Department of Education has been increasingly concerned about test security and the unauthorized use of cell phones and other electronic devices during the administration of state PSSA and Keystone Exams. All districts have been instructed to share the following information with students and parents to emphasize the need to take the ban on cell phones and electronic devices seriously.

All cell phones, smart phones, and other prohibited electronic devices are to be collected as students enter the testing site. Thus, school districts and schools should do the following:

- Cell phones are not allowed during the test administration;

- The consequence for using and/or having a cell phone or other electronic device during the test administration will be that the student will not receive a score;
- If the student uses a cell phone or electronic device in any manner during the administration of the test, the phone or electronic device will be confiscated until such time that the parent or guardian can come to the school, and in the presence of the parent or guardian, the cell phone or other electronic device will be viewed to ensure that no information or material regarding the assessment is present;
- Violation of the no cell phone or other electronic device rule will result in discipline and that discipline will vary depending on whether test material has been compromised;
- Any items on an assessment that have been compromised, and can no longer be used will have to be replaced, and the parents and students may be responsible for the cost of replacement.

*Pennsylvania Department of Education—
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