

Policy on Use of Calculators for SCPASS Science, Grades 6–8 Only

Beginning with the spring 2016 SCPASS administration, the use of calculators is allowed for all students taking the grades 6, 7, and 8 science tests. School- or student-owned calculators may be used. Students taking the grades 6–8 SCPASS science tests online will have access to a built-in basic calculator.

The SCDE recommends the use of **basic four-function calculators**; however, test-takers may use any four-function, scientific, or graphing calculator during the grades 6–8 SCPASS science tests **unless** it has any of the prohibited features described below.

- calculators with built-in computer algebra systems (CAS), including:
 - Texas Instruments: all model numbers that begin with **TI-89** or **TI-92** and the **TI-Nspire CAS** [Note: The TI-Nspire (non-CAS) is permitted.]
 - Hewlett-Packard: **HP 48GII** and all model numbers that begin with **HP 40G**, **HP 49G**, or **HP 50G**
 - Casio: **Algebra fx 2.0**, **ClassPad 300** and **ClassPad 330**, and all model numbers that begin with **CFX-9970G**
- handheld, tablet, or laptop computers (unless being used for online testing), including PDAs
- calculators with wireless capability, such as Bluetooth or an infrared data port
- electronic writing pads or pen-input devices
- calculators built into cell phones or any other electronic communication devices
- calculators with a typewriter keypad (letter keys in QWERTY format)
- calculators that “talk” or otherwise make noise, such as the AudioCalc

To help maintain test security, **the memory of every calculator used during testing must be reset by a school test coordinator (STC) or test administrator (TA) before and after testing** to clear all applications and programs. Students should not be allowed to share calculators during the science test.

Students who wish to use their own calculators during the test must be told in advance of the test day to back up all data and programs that they wish to save. The memory of every calculator used in testing must be reset to factory default values (cleared) before testing, an action that causes all data and programs stored in the calculator to be erased. **If a student is unwilling to have his or her calculator’s memory reset, the student may not use that calculator during the test.** Some calculators have special features such as Test Guard and Press-to-Test which disable applications and programs during test administration. A TA may activate such features on these calculators instead of resetting the memory. Information is available from the manufacturers.