

ASSURANCE OF TEST SECURITY AND NON-DISCLOSURE

Effective for school year 2017–2018

The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) is required by state statute to implement statewide testing programs. Test security must be maintained to provide an equal opportunity to all students to demonstrate their academic achievement and to ensure the validity of test scores and the integrity of state assessments. Failure to maintain test security jeopardizes district and state accountability requirements and the accuracy of student, school, district, and state data. Test scores are included in important decisions about students' future success; it is essential that they reflect the truth about what students know and can do. This form must be signed prior to being involved in any aspect of test administration.

All test content, secure test materials, and student responses, whether in draft or final form, are considered secure, and only authorized persons are permitted to have access to them. Authorized persons:

- Are administrators, educators, staff, or other persons designated by the district who have a role in storing, distributing, coordinating, or administering tests.
- Have received appropriate training to fulfill their assigned roles.
- Have signed this agreement.

Responsibilities of authorized persons who may potentially interact with secure test content, student responses, and data are outlined in the *Procedures Manual of the Minnesota Assessments* (hereafter *Procedures Manual*). By signing this form, you agree to the following assurances:

- As required for my role in the administration of the statewide testing program, I am responsible for understanding relevant information contained in the current year's *Procedures Manual* and directions for test administration. I will abide by policies and procedures detailed in the resources for statewide test administration.
- As required for my role, I am or will be trained in the administration policies and procedures for statewide tests before participating in any part of statewide test administration.
- As required for my role, I will instruct staff on state and district procedures for maintaining test security and will not allow unauthorized persons to distribute, coordinate or administer tests, or have access to secure test content and materials.
- As required for my role, I will follow the procedures in the *Procedures Manual* to investigate and notify the appropriate school and district staff or the Minnesota Department of Education immediately upon learning of potential misconduct or irregularities, whether intentional or unintentional.
- I understand that MDE has the responsibility to oversee the administration of the statewide tests. I will cooperate fully with MDE representatives, and school officials when applicable, in all aspects of test security compliance including but not limited to monitoring visits, desk audits, and investigations.
- I understand that test data and documents that contain student-level information are considered confidential and secure. I will follow all applicable federal and state data privacy laws related to student educational data, including data within reports and data accessible in electronic systems provided by MDE or its service provider(s).
- I understand my responsibility to enforce proper testing procedures and to ensure the security and confidential integrity of the test(s). I will apply and follow procedures designed to keep test content secure and to ensure the validity of test results, including but not limited to:
 - Recognizing the rights of students and families to accurate test results that reflect students' individual, unassisted achievement.

- Protecting the confidentiality of statewide assessments and ensuring the validity of students' results by safeguarding secure test content, keeping test materials in a secure area, and adhering to chain of custody requirements.
- Never retaining secure test materials in my custody beyond the allowed times to process, distribute, coordinate, administer, and return them, as appropriate for my role.
- Ensuring that no part of the paper or online tests are outlined, summarized, paraphrased, discussed, released, distributed to unauthorized personnel, printed, reproduced, copied, photographed, recorded, or retained in original or duplicated format, without the explicit permission of MDE or as authorized in the *Procedures Manual*.
- Never permitting or engaging in the unauthorized use of a student's MARSS or Secure Student Identification Number (SSID) to log in to the online testing system or access an online test.
- Never engaging in, or allowing others to engage in, unauthorized viewing, discussion, or analysis of test content before, during, or after testing.
- Actively monitoring students during test administration for prohibited behavior.
- Never leaving students unattended during test administration or under the supervision of unauthorized staff or volunteers.
- Never influence test results by providing students with answers to secure test items, suggesting how to respond to secure test items, or influencing student responses to secure test items, Prohibited actions include but are not limited to providing clues or hints; providing reminders of content or testing strategies; prompting students to correct or check/recheck specific responses; permitting access to curricular materials (e.g., textbooks, notes, review materials, bulletin boards, posters, charts, maps, timelines, etc.); or using voice inflection, facial gestures, pointing, gesturing, tapping, or other actions to indicate a response or accuracy of a student's response.
- Never formally or informally scoring secure tests or individual test items except as required by the test-specific manuals and directions. Prohibited actions include but are not limited to creating an answer key; reviewing or scoring a student's item response or responses unless items are designed to be scored by the test administrator using a rubric or script; retaining, reviewing, or scoring student scratch paper or accommodated test materials; or tracking student performance on test items.
- Never altering or engaging in other prohibited involvement with student responses.
- Never inducing or encouraging others to violate the procedures outlined above or to engage in any conduct that jeopardizes test security or the validity of test scores.

By accepting the terms of this agreement, you name yourself as an employee of the School District or as an authorized person selected by the District, and affirm that you are authorized by the District during the current academic school year to have access to secure test materials or student data related to statewide test administrations and hereby agree to be bound by the terms of this agreement.

Failure to follow procedures can lead to the invalidation of students' tests. Consequences for violating the terms of this agreement may result in a complaint filed with the local School Board, the Board of Teaching, or the Board of School Administrators for evaluation and investigation. The findings of the appropriate Board may result in disciplinary action up to and including termination and/or loss of license.

Signature

Date

Name (printed)

Work telephone

District and School Names

Email Address