

RHODE ISLAND STATE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

“DOs and DON'Ts of Test Security”

NECAP State Assessments

October 2012

It is essential to follow security measures before, during, and after testing in order to ensure the validity, reliability and fairness of the assessment results. Tests must be administered strictly in accordance with the instructions and procedures set forth in the test administration manuals and the assessment security instructions and procedures provided by the Rhode Island State Assessment Program for the NECAP State Assessments.

The educational testing instruments used in the Rhode Island State Assessment Program are considered secure materials. Security of these testing materials is the responsibility of all school district employees who come into contact with and/or who are assigned responsibility for the receipt, inventory, administration, storage and return of these materials. **Failure to safeguard these test materials or to comply with standardized test administration procedures could adversely affect an individual's employment and/or certification status.** (Refer to the ASSESSMENT SECURITY NOTICE, below.)

This information is provided to assist you in determining what activity might constitute a breach of security. This list is not intended to include every possible circumstance where a security breach might occur.

- ✓ All test booklets and answer booklets must be kept in a locked and secure area except during actual test administration. This includes time periods 1) prior to the beginning of testing, 2) at the close of each testing session, and 3) following completion of all testing and prior to the return shipment of the test booklets to the testing company.
- ✓ Photocopying, hand copying or otherwise reproducing **ALL OR ANY PART** of test booklets or answer booklets is **STRICTLY PROHIBITED!** All assessments are to remain secure throughout **ALL** phases of the testing process.
- ✓ Only persons explicitly designated to administer tests to students, to provide special codes to test booklets, or otherwise to handle (*e.g.*, distribute or package) test booklets, answer booklets or prompts may have, at any time, possession of a test booklet or answer booklet.
- ✓ Students must **never** be exposed to test items prior to, between testing sessions, or following test administration.
- ✓ All persons are prohibited from providing students with the answers to test items at **any** time (before, during, and after test administration has been completed). This includes provision of cues, clues, hints and/or actual answers in any written, printed, electronic, verbal and/or non-verbal form.
- ✓ Responses to test items must represent the student's own independent and unaided thinking and must remain unchanged after test administration is complete. All persons are prohibited from changing or editing students' answers to test items, either by providing hints or clues to wrong answers during test administration or by erasing or correcting wrong answers recorded, or provided in other ways, by the student. **Allowable** testing accommodations (refer to the *NECAP Accommodations Guide* or to appendices in the *Test Administrator Manual*) are designed to remove barriers to participation so that students may provide their own responses without giving them an advantage (or disadvantage) over other students.
- ✓ **All** NECAP test booklets are numbered and **must** be returned following the completion of testing.

- ✓ During the test administration, Test Administrators/Teachers should monitor the testing process by moving unobtrusively about the room. It is difficult to observe testing in progress if one merely sits or stands in the front of the room. The Test Administrator is to devote total attention to the students being tested and to avoid involvement in paperwork or any other activity that distracts from proctoring.
- ✓ Using test items in any form (including rewording actual test items) is ***strictly prohibited***.
- ✓ Teachers are ***NOT*** to attempt—formally or informally—to score answer booklets for any NECAP assessment. Scoring is the responsibility of the test contractor.
- ✓ Use of test materials at times, and for purposes, other than those approved by the Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education is ***strictly prohibited***.

ASSESSMENT SECURITY NOTICE

Each assessment instrument in the Rhode Island State Assessment Program is procured and disseminated to local school districts by the State of Rhode Island under the authority of the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education. Secure assessment materials and booklets are the property of the State of Rhode Island and may ***not*** be retained by school personnel. Secure assessment materials and booklets may ***not*** be copied or reproduced in any way. All secure assessment materials and booklets (including answer booklets) and all student drafts/scratch paper must be returned as directed by the State of Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education at the close of test administration. Reproducing or copying the NECAP assessments is a violation of the assessment security procedures established by the States of Rhode Island, Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont.

It is the position of the Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education that reproducing, copying or retaining these assessments, or any other compromise of the security of assessment instruments, constitutes unprofessional conduct which could lead to the **suspension or revocation of your certification**. Under R.I.G.L. 16-11-4 certificates may be revoked “for cause.”

All school staff (including support staff) who administers and/or otherwise handles NECAP state assessment test materials ***MUST*** sign an ***Affirmation of Test Security*** form to indicate that they understand all test security expectations. Furthermore, district testing coordinators and principals are required to complete the online *Certification of Proper Test Administration* form to provide assurances that, to the best of their knowledge: 1) all test security procedures have been followed; 2) no retention of test booklets or answer booklets has occurred; 3) test administration guidelines and procedures set forth in the *NECAP Test Coordinator/Principal Manual* have been followed; and 4) any exceptions/violations/problems are duly noted. Should such affirmation and assurances be intentionally false, submission of the affirmation may constitute submission of a false document to a public agency in violation of R.I.G.L. 11-18-1. Any violation may also constitute cause for the suspension or revocation of certification under R.I.G.L. 16-11-4.