

Test Integrity



DC CAS Training Involving Parents in State Testing

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Before the Administration of a Statewide Standardized Test



Parents should be informed about

- The purpose of the statewide test
- Who will be tested, and in which academic subjects?
- How and when it will be administered?
- How the test will be scored and reported?

Source: Responsibilities of Users of Standardized Test, Association for Assessment in Counseling (AAC), 2003.

What is the Purpose of the DC CAS?



The statewide test (DC CAS) stands for the District of Columbia Comprehensive Assessment System

The **purpose** of the DC CAS is to measure student learning

Who and What Subjects will be Tested?



Students in these grades and subjects

Reading: Grades 2-8, and 9-10 (2nd and 9th grade reported internally only)

Composition: Grades 4, 7 and 10

Mathematics: Grades 3-8 and high school

Science: Grades 5, 8, and high school (Biology)

Health: Grades 5, 8, and high school

Source: Responsibilities of Users of Standardized Test, Association for Assessment in Counseling (AAC), 2003.

How and When it will be Administered?



The statewide test is generally administered during late March, late April into early May

The format of the statewide test has been pencil and paper with the exception of an online version of Health for 2012-2013

By 2014-2015, all tested students will be using computer-assisted technology (online versions) for Reading, Composition, Mathematics, Science and Health

Source: Educational Measurement, Millman and Green (1993), page 335-366.

How is the Test Scored and Reported?



A student's performance on the DC CAS is reported using "scaled scores." These scores are three-digit numbers that are used to place the student into one of four levels:

- **Advanced** (exceeding state standard)
- **Proficient** (meeting state standard)
- **Basic** (not meeting state standard)
- **Below Basic** (not meeting state standard)

Prepared Students are Achieving Students



Students do well on state tests when they come to class regularly, take class notes, do their schoolwork, make-up missed assignments, and participate in class activities and tests to determine mastery.

Source: Frequently Asked Questions, DC CAS 2013, OSSE, page 1

Parents can Help to Reduce Negative Impacts by helping Prevent



- Student hunger
- Student fatigue
- Student illness
- Student stress
- Student test anxiety

Source: Pearson Assessments, Administration Practices for Standardized Assessments, April 2004, page 9.

Prepared Parents = Prepared Students



The Day Before

- Optimize your child's brain power
- Encourage 7-10 hours sleep the night before
- Prepare a good breakfast the day of
- Purchase #2 lead pencil, erasers and the approved calculator (if necessary)

Throughout the Year

- Encourage good study habits
- Encourage reading across all mediums (internet, newspapers, magazines)
- Encourage critical thinking (ask your children to discuss their ideas and voice their opinions)

Source: Scholastic, Parents, Home of Parent & Child Magazine, <http://www.scholastic.com/parents/resources/article/study-skills-test-taking/standardized-tests-prepare-and-interpret-results>

Communicate with your Child's Teacher



Questions for the Teacher

- Ask for the name of the test
- What will the test measure?
- What is the format (multiple choice, constructed response, essay)?
- How is it scored
- When will parents receive the scores
- How will the test results impact your child
- How can parents help their children prepare?

Parent Responsibility

- Find help, academic supports or tutoring for areas your child needs more work
- Supervise homework
- Set small goals (learn five new words per week, practice mental math at the grocery or fast food restaurant)

Source: Scholastic, Parents, Home of Parent & Child Magazine, <http://www.scholastic.com/parents/resources/article/study-skills-test-taking/standardized-tests-prepare-and-interpret-results>

Positive Impact of Involved Parents



Parental involvement, such as

- Checking homework
- Attending school meetings and events
- Discussing school activities at home

has more powerful influence on students' academic performance than anything about the school the students attend

Source: North Carolina State University, Brigham Young University and the University of California- Irvine, October 2012

Strategies Parents Should Know to Help their Children: Multiple Choice



- Read the question
- Use pictures, diagrams or graphs that may be part of the question for assistance
- Look at the four possible answers-
 - Are there one or two you know are wrong?
 - Cross out the letters in the test booklet
 - When you can get rid of two possible choices, the odds of getting the right answer increases
 - Once you have selected and marked your answer, **re-read** it to make sure the answer makes sense

Strategies Parents Should Know to Help Their Children: Constructed Response



- Read the entire question
- If there are many parts to answer, you must answer **both parts**
- Use pictures, diagrams or graphs provided for assistance
- Consider creating your own table, graph, bulleted list or labeled diagram to help you answer the question more completely
- Fit your answer in the space provided
- **Do not leave a constructed response question blank**

Help Educators Instill Positive Testing Behaviors



Good Behaviors

- Arriving on time
- Using restroom prior to the start of testing
- Doing own work
- Working quietly
- Following test administrator's instructions

Bad Behaviors

- Cheating
- Whispering, talking during test, passing notes
- Using cell phone
- Distracting other students
- Sharing test items with others
- Posting on test on Instagram, Facebook or others

Source: Scholastic, Parents, Home of Parent & Child Magazine, <http://www.scholastic.com/parents/resources/article/study-skills-test-taking/standardized-tests-prepare-and-interpret-results>

Closing



The highest paid professions, “**physicians, lawyers, real estate brokers, pilots,**” construction apprentices, licensed cosmetologists, hair dressers, psychologists, police officers, fire fighters, postal clerks, and social workers “**all take a high-stakes standardized test to ensure they have the necessary knowledge for their professions.**” Standardized tests are reliable instrument for building the bridge from cradle to careers.

Donald R. McAdams, "Enemy of the Good," *Education Next*, Summer 2002



Thank you for your time
and attention!

Please contact Tonya Mead, PhD Test Integrity Coordinator
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