



Associate Commissioner
Office of Curriculum, Assessment and Educational Technology

Revised November 2012

TO: District Superintendents
Superintendents of Public and Nonpublic Schools
Principals of Public, Charter, and Nonpublic Schools

FROM: Ken Wagner

SUBJECT: Revised Tools for the 2013 Grades 3-8 Mathematics Tests

Note: The information within this memo pertaining to use of calculators on the Grades 6, 7, and 8 Mathematics Tests supersedes information previously provided in a March 2012 field memo.

This memo provides essential information regarding changes in the mathematics tools that will be required for the **2013** Grades 3-8 Mathematics Tests. These changes are necessary for students to meet Mathematical Practice 5 of the New York State P-12 Common Core Learning Standards for Mathematics:

Use appropriate tools strategically

Mathematically proficient students consider the available tools when solving a mathematical problem. Proficient students are sufficiently familiar with tools appropriate for their grade or course to make sound decisions about when each of these tools might be helpful, recognizing both the insight to be gained and their limitations. Mathematically proficient students at various grade levels are able to identify relevant external mathematical resources, such as digital content located on a website, and use them to pose or solve problems. They are able to use technological tools to explore and deepen their understanding of concepts.

The following are the required tools for each grade level for the **2013** Grades 3-8 Mathematics Tests:

- Grades 3-8 students **must** have the use of a ruler for the entire test.
- Grades 4-8 students **must** have the use of a protractor for the entire test.
- Grades 3-5 students will **not** have the use of calculators.
- Grade 6 students will **not** use a calculator with Book 1 because this part of the test measures students' proficiencies involving calculations. Students **must** have the use of a four-function calculator with a square root key or a scientific calculator for Books 2 and 3 of the test. (Schools may choose which type they purchase.)
- Grades 7 & 8 students will **not** use a calculator with Book 1 because this part of the test measures students' proficiencies involving calculations. Students **must** have the use of a scientific calculator for Books 2 and 3 of the test.

Additional information regarding the 2013 Grades 3-8 Mathematics Tests can be found in the 2013 Test Guides posted at <http://engageny.org/resource/test-guides-for-english-language-arts-and-mathematics>.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please submit them to emscassessinfo@mail.nysed.gov. Thank you very much for your support. We appreciate the hard work that you and your staff do on behalf of New York State students.