

## Public Education Department (PED) Policy on Electronic Devices During Standardized Testing

Under direction of the Public Education Department, schools must enforce this strict cell phone policy during standardized testing to maintain test security. This policy applies to administrations of the Standards Based Assessment (SBA), High School Graduation Assessment (HSGA), New Mexico Alternate Performance Assessment (NMAPA), Alternate Assessment for High School Graduation (AAHSG), ACCESS for ELLs, Alternate ACCESS for ELLs, W-APT, and End-of-Course Exams (EoCs). If parents or family members need to contact a student during testing days, they may call the school office.

The term *electronic device* includes any personal, non-educational device with an on-off switch *excepting medical equipment*, most commonly:

- Cell phones
- Smart phones
- MP3 players, iPods, or other music players
- iPads, tablets, laptops, or other computers
- Pagers

### **Schools must clearly inform students that:**

- ***Bringing an electronic device into the testing area violates school and state policy.***
- ***Violation of this policy is grounds for confiscation and a search of the device.***

The following procedures must be implemented when test materials are distributed.

- Students who are testing should not bring electronic devices to school.
- Electronic devices must be turned completely off. They may not be on “silent” or “vibrate” modes.
- Electronic devices may not be on a student’s body. This includes in pockets or otherwise stored in clothing.
- If brought to school, electronic devices must be stored in a secure location away from students. Acceptable storage includes in a bag, desk, locker, or central location in a classroom or school office.

If an electronic device is found on a student during testing, schools must adhere to the following procedures:

- Confiscate the electronic device.
- Check the device for pictures, texts, transmissions by applications (such as Facebook), and any other recent use.
- If possible, run a data recovery program that is compatible with the device’s operating system (commonly Windows, Android, Apple, and Blackberry) to determine recent use of the device.
- ***Continue testing the student.***
- Contact STC, Principal, and/or DTC.
- At the completion of a testing session, interview the student regarding use of the device.
- Enforce school/district disciplinary action.
- Fill out Testing Irregularity Reporting Form and submit to the PED.
- Students caught with electronic devices during testing may have assessments invalidated by the PED. This could have severe consequences for high school students testing to meet graduation requirements.