Calculator Guidance – AASA and AzSCI

The AASA and AzSCI calculator guidelines are designed to provide appropriate support for students while still measuring a student’s mastery of the standards. On tests where calculators are permitted, it is ideal for a student to use the recommended acceptable calculator. If the recommended calculator is not available, students may use a calculator with less functionality. The Desmos Scientific calculators have been customized for AASA and AzSCI and are embedded in online tests that allow the use of a calculator. These guidelines are for the assessment only. They are not intended to limit instruction in the classroom. Technology is a part of the Arizona Mathematics and Science Standards, and students should still be interacting with technology as appropriate for engaging with and learning the standards.

AASA

Grades 3-6: No calculators permitted on AASA.

Grades 7-8: Scientific calculator permitted on AASA Math Part 1 only. No calculators permitted on AASA Math Part 2. Scientific calculator should include these functions: standard four functions (addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division), decimal, change sign (+/-), parentheses, square root, and π. They may NOT include: any problem solving or programming capabilities, place values, and inequalities. Sample acceptable calculator: TI-30X IIS or similar. The Desmos Scientific calculator is embedded in the online AASA Math Part 1 test.

AzSCI

Grade 5: A four-function calculator is permitted on AzSCI. The Desmos four-function calculator is embedded in the online AzSCI test.

Grades 8, 11: Scientific calculator permitted on AzSCI. Scientific calculator should include these functions: standard four functions (addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division), decimal, change sign (+/-), parentheses, square root, and π. They may NOT include: any problem solving or programming capabilities, place values, and inequalities. Sample acceptable calculator: TI-30X IIS or similar. The Desmos Scientific calculator is embedded in the online AzSCI test.

Additional Guidance

- Students are not allowed to share calculators during a test session.
- No laptop, tablet, or phone-based calculators are allowed to be used during the AASA or AzSCI assessments outside of the test-embedded calculators.
- The applicable portion of the computer-based assessment will include the acceptable online version of the approved calculator. Providing handheld calculators is not a requirement for schools choosing the computer-based assessment. However, students may use an acceptable handheld calculator in addition to or instead of the online calculator.

Calculator Guidance – ACT Aspire and ACT

Please reference the ACT Calculator Policy for both the ACT and ACT Aspire assessments: ACT Calculator Policy.

Note: The Desmos Graphing calculator is embedded in the online ACT test. A non-branded scientific calculator is embedded in the online ACT Aspire test.