

## Technology Guidelines

Districts are required to have procedures in place to prevent the use of personal electronic devices during test administrations. When districts are using allowed or approved technology, including technology-based accommodations (i.e., accessibility features, designated supports), the following guidelines for test security and validity must be followed to review the technology prior to its use in an assessment. Appropriate review requires knowledge of both state curriculum (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills) for the specific grade level and subject, as well as the capabilities and functions of the device or software to be used during the assessment. Some technology may be useful during a daily academic setting. This technology cannot be used during a state assessment if it has functionality that creates an assessment concern that cannot be addressed. District or campus personnel must conduct additional reviews of technology, including technology-based accommodations, after an upgrade or update to determine if it continues to meet TEA guidelines for use during a state assessment.

### **Technology Guidelines**

All technology used during state assessments must adhere to the following guidelines. Test administrators must actively monitor the use of the technology, including technology-based accommodations, during an assessment.

For a device or software to be considered appropriate for state assessment use, it must:

- be set in a mode that locks the user into a specific software program;
- block the user from accessing functionality that may violate test security, such as
  - the ability to send secure test content (e.g., messages, captured images, videos);
  - the ability to send or receive any person-to-person communication about secure test content (e.g., chat, video); or
  - the ability to save secure test content.

When using tablet applications districts must ensure the application does not provide functionality that compromises the curriculum assessed.

A training presentation is available on the 2018 Accommodation Resources webpage to assist districts in making appropriate decisions about technology-based accommodations for students taking state assessments. If you have questions about whether specific technology-based accommodations meet these guidelines, contact the most appropriate person in your district (e.g., technology staff, curriculum staff).