

# FCAT Administration and Security Agreement

## Florida Department of Education Bureau of K-12 Assessment

Florida State Board of Education Rule 6A-10.042, FAC, was developed to meet the requirements of the test security statute, Section 1008.24, F.S., and applies to anyone involved in the administration of a statewide assessment test. The rule prohibits activities that may threaten the integrity of the test. See the Florida Test Security Statute and the Rule. Examples of prohibited activities are listed below:

- Reading the writing prompts, passages, or test items.
- Revealing the writing prompts, passages, or test items.
- Copying the writing prompts, passages, or test items.
- Explaining or reading the writing prompts, test items or passages for students.
- Changing or otherwise interfering with student responses to test items.
- Causing achievement of schools to be inaccurately measured or reported.
- Copying or reading student responses.

If any of the above examples are allowable accommodations for students with current IEPs, Section 504 plans, or ELL plans, test administrators are permitted to provide the accommodation(s).

All personnel are prohibited from examining or copying the writing prompts, test items and/or the contents of writing folders, student test books and answer documents. The security of all test materials must be maintained before, during, and after the test administration.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, I have read the information and instructions provided and agree to abide by the rules and statutes of the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) according to these procedures.

I will not reveal or disclose any information about the test items or engage in any acts that would violate the security of the FCAT and cause student achievement to be inaccurately represented or reported.

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*School/Department Name*

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*Print Name*

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*Date*

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*Signature*

#### **6A-10.042 Maintenance of Test Security.**

(1) Tests implemented in accordance with the requirements of Sections 229.053(2)(d), 229.57, 231.087, 231.0861(3), 231.17, 233.011, 239.301(10), 240.107(8), and 240.117, Florida Statutes, shall be maintained and administered in a secure manner such that the integrity of the tests shall be preserved.

(a) Test questions shall be preserved in a secure manner by individuals who are developing and validating the tests. Such individuals shall not reveal in any manner, verbally or in writing, the test questions under development.

(b) Tests or individual test questions shall not be revealed, copied, or otherwise reproduced by persons who are involved in the administration, proctoring, or scoring of any test.

(c) Examinees shall not be assisted in answering test questions by any means by persons administering or proctoring the administration of any test.

(d) Examinees' answers to questions shall not be interfered with in any way by persons administering, proctoring, or scoring the examinations.

(e) Examinees shall not be given answer keys by any person.

(f) Persons who are involved in administering or proctoring the tests or persons who teach or otherwise prepare examinees for the tests shall not participate in, direct, aid, counsel, assist in, or encourage any activity which could result in the inaccurate measurement or reporting of the examinees' achievement.

(g) Each person who has access to tests or test questions during the development, printing, administration, or scoring of the tests shall be informed of specifications for maintaining test security, the provisions in statute and rule governing test security, and a description of the penalties for breaches of test security.

(h) During each test administration, school district and institutional test administration coordinators and contractors employing test administrators and proctors shall ensure that required testing procedures are being followed at all test administration sites. Officials from the Department are authorized to conduct unannounced observations of test administration procedures at any test administration site to ensure that testing procedures are being correctly followed.

(2) Test materials, including all test booklets and other materials containing secure test questions, answer keys, and student responses, shall be kept secure and precisely accounted for in accordance with the procedures specified in the examination program administration manuals and other communications provided by the Department. Such procedures shall include but are not limited to the following:

(a) All test materials shall be kept in secure, locked storage prior to and after administration of any test.

(b) All test materials shall be precisely accounted for and written documentation kept by test administrators and proctors for each point at which test materials are distributed and returned.

(c) Any discrepancies noted in the number or serial numbers of testing materials received from contractors shall be reported to the Department by designated institutional or school district personnel prior to the administration of the test.

(d) In the event that test materials are determined to be missing while in the possession of an institution or school district, designated institutional or school district personnel shall investigate the cause of the discrepancy and provide the Department with a report of the investigation within thirty (30) calendar days of the initiation of the investigation. At a minimum, the report shall include the nature of the situation, the time and place of occurrence, and the names of the persons involved in or witness to the occurrence. Officials from the Department are authorized to conduct additional investigations.

(e) In those cases where the responsibility for secure destruction of certain test materials is assigned by the Department to designated institutional or school district personnel, the responsible institutional or school district representative shall certify in writing that such destruction was accomplished in a secure manner.

(f) In those cases where test materials are permitted by the Department to be maintained in an institution or school district, the test materials shall be maintained in a secure manner as specified in the instructions provided by the Department. Access to the materials shall be limited to the individuals and purposes specified by the Department.

(3) In those situations where an employee of the educational institution, school district, or contractor, or an employee of the Department suspects a student of cheating on a test or suspects other violations of the provisions of this rule, a report shall be made to the Department or test support contractor, as specified in the test administration procedures, within ten (10) calendar days. The report shall include a description of the incident, the names of the persons involved in or witness to the incident, and other information as appropriate. Officials from the Department are authorized to conduct additional investigations.

(4) Violations of test security provisions shall be subject to penalties provided in statute and State Board Rules.

Specific Authority 120.53(1)(b), 228.301, 229.053(1) FS. Law Implemented 120.53(1)(b), 228.301, 229.053(2)(d), 229.57, 231.087, 231.0861, 231.17, 233.011, 239.301, 240.107, 240.117 FS. History - New 7-5-87, Amended 10-26-94.

1008.24 **Test security.**--

(1) It is unlawful for anyone knowingly and willfully to violate test security rules adopted by the State Board of Education for mandatory tests administered by or through the State Board of Education or the Commissioner of Education to students, educators, or applicants for certification or administered by school districts pursuant to s. [1008.22](#), or, with respect to any such test, knowingly and willfully to:

- (a) Give examinees access to test questions prior to testing;
- (b) Copy, reproduce, or use in any manner inconsistent with test security rules all or any portion of any secure test booklet;
- (c) Coach examinees during testing or alter or interfere with examinees' responses in any way;
- (d) Make answer keys available to examinees;
- (e) Fail to follow security rules for distribution and return of secure test as directed, or fail to account for all secure test materials before, during, and after testing;
- (f) Fail to follow test administration directions specified in the test administration manuals; or
- (g) Participate in, direct, aid, counsel, assist in, or encourage any of the acts prohibited in this section.

(2) Any person who violates this section commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. [775.082](#) or s. [775.083](#).

(3) A district school superintendent, a president of a public postsecondary educational institution, or a president of a nonpublic postsecondary educational institution shall cooperate with the Commissioner of Education in any investigation concerning the administration of a test administered pursuant to state statute or rule.