



DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, P-12 EDUCATION

March 2012

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

FROM: Ken Slentz – Deputy Commissioner for P–12

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

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 **must** have the use of a four-function calculator with a square root key or a scientific calculator for the entire test. (Schools may choose which type they purchase.)
- Grades 7 & 8 students **must** have the use of a scientific calculator for the entire test.

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