

Calculators in All Math Classes

South Carolina recently adopted a new state testing system known as the ACT Aspire. This assessment system will be used to help us prepare students to be college and career ready. One of the major changes beginning in 6th grade, **all students may use a calculator on the assessment**. Many of the math questions are application style questions. In other words, the basic calculations will only be a small part of the questions. You likely have seen this be true in our math classes as well. Students now spend less time on calculations and more time focusing on mathematical concepts and application. Our teachers are still working with students to learn to make calculations; however, more emphasis is placed on application.

We are recommending that all students have a calculator in class each and every day although students may or may not use them every day. There are many models available, but many of these are not allowed to be used on the state assessments. To help students be familiar with their device, we are asking you to consider purchasing your child an allowable calculator. This is not required, but we wanted you to be aware. While students can use other models in class, these are the models recommended by our teachers and are allowable on the state tests (per the SC Department of Education and ACT).

Here are 2 models to consider:

TI-84 plus Graphing Calculator



Cost approximately \$115-150

This model is acceptable to be used through college. Many algebra classes require the use of this calculator in class on a daily basis. (Available at Walmart, Amazon, or other retailers.)

TI-30X Scientific Calculator



Cost approximately \$12-\$20.00

This model is less expensive and will work for all of our classes and serve the purpose of assisting the student in math class. (Available at Walmart or other retailers.)

Remember that students may continue to use any model in class, but for testing purposes, they must use the approved devices (no cell phones, tablets, or types of calculators not approved by the SCDE or ACT).