

A photograph of a teacher sitting on the floor in a library, reading a book to a group of young students. The teacher is a woman with dark hair, wearing a white shirt and glasses. She is holding an open book with a green cover. The students are also sitting on the floor, looking at the book. In the background, there are bookshelves filled with books and blue storage bins.

**Student Assessment Division
Fall 2021**

Technology Use Guidelines 2021-2022

Purpose of this Document

- This document is intended to expand on the Technology Guidelines policy document that is currently available in the *District and Campus Coordinator Resources (DCCR)*.
- The purpose of this presentation is to provide additional guidance to school personnel in their selection of technology resources for state assessments. It includes clarifications and examples of appropriate technology use during state assessments.

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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 accessibility features and designated supports, these guidelines for test security and validity must be followed when reviewing the technology for appropriateness prior to its use during an assessment.
- Appropriate review requires knowledge of the 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.

Technology Guidelines

- For technology-based designated supports, a student may use allowed technology during a state assessment if he or she routinely and effectively uses it during classroom instruction and classroom testing and is approved to use it based on the decisions of the appropriate committee (e.g., ARD committee, 504 committee, LPAC, RTI committee, or student assistance team).
- Some technology may be useful during a daily academic setting. However, this technology cannot be used during a state assessment if it has any functionality that creates an assessment concern that cannot be addressed (e.g., a word processor for basic transcribing that allows access to an internet browser).

Technology Guidelines

- District or campus personnel must conduct additional reviews of technology after any upgrade or update to determine if it continues to meet TEA guidelines for use during a state assessment.
- All technology used during state assessments must adhere to these guidelines.
- Test administrators must actively monitor the use of the technology during a state assessment.

Technology Guidelines

- 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(s) [e.g., kiosk mode or a districtwide Mobile Device Management system (MDM)]; and/or
 - 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); and
 - the ability to save secure test content (if the device or software requires a student's response to be temporarily saved, the district must ensure the file is permanently deleted after the administration).

Technology Guidelines

- Tablet devices may be used for calculation applications, speech-to-text applications, word processor applications, and dictionary applications. When using tablet applications, districts must ensure the application does not provide functionality that compromises the curriculum assessed.
- If an application or software program requires an internet connection to function (e.g., a speech-to-text application requires access to an internet-based word bank), it should be set in a mode that prevents the student from accessing the internet through a browser or accessing any other aids beyond the allowable supports.

Technology Guidelines

- For students using accessibility features, the secure browser application provides the option for assessments to be taken in less restrictive environments. This feature is known as **Permissive Mode**.
 - Temporarily allows students who need designated support tools to navigate between the secure browser application and external applications
 - The use of Permissive Mode must be approved by TEA as an "Other" designated support through the submission of an Accommodation Request Form and should be enabled as an attribute in TIDE before the student begins testing.
 - Permissive Mode is available for computers running supported desktop Windows and Mac operating systems only. Permissive Mode on Mac devices is supported only with secure browser versions 12.5 and 12.6.

For more information and instructions, refer to the [Test Delivery System \(TDS\) User Guide](#), the [Assistive Technology User Guide](#), and the [Quick Guide for Setting Up Your Online Testing Technology](#).

Technology Guidelines

- If you have questions about whether specific technology meet these guidelines, contact the most appropriate person in your district (e.g., technology staff, curriculum staff).
- Applications may **NOT** be accessed on a cell phone.

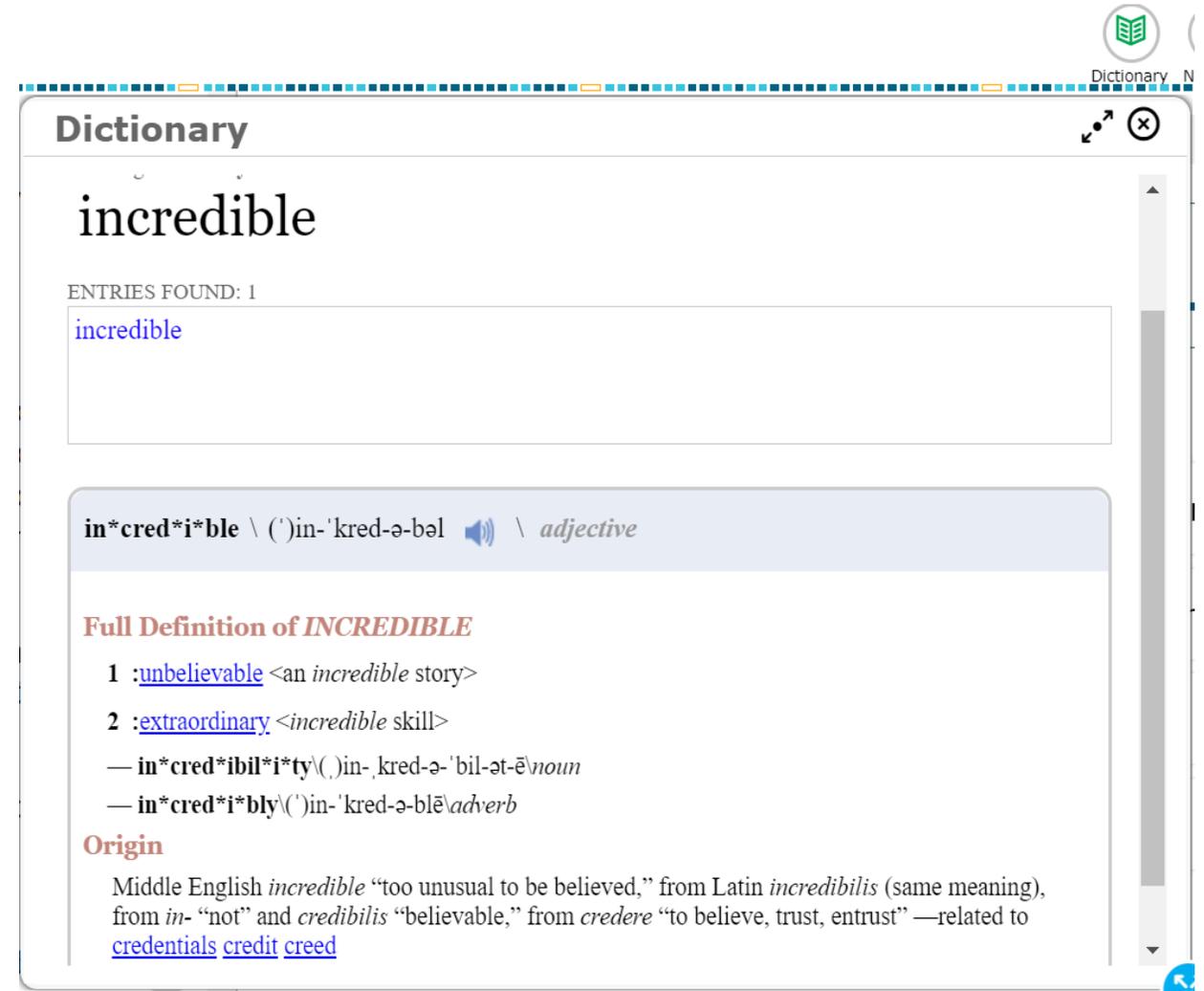


STAAR Dictionary Policy

- Districts must ensure that dictionaries are available to **ALL** students taking
 - STAAR grades 3–8 reading;
 - STAAR Spanish grades 3–5 reading; and
 - STAAR English I and English II (for all sections).
- Allowable Dictionaries
 - Standard monolingual dictionaries in English or the language most appropriate for the student
 - Dictionary/thesaurus combinations
 - Bilingual dictionaries
 - ESL dictionaries (definition of an English word using simplified English)
 - Sign language dictionaries
 - Picture dictionaries

STAAR Dictionary Policy: STAAR Online Dictionary Tool

- A dictionary tool is available on all STAAR online tests as required by the STAAR Dictionary Policy.
 - English=Merriam-Webster
 - Spanish=Oxford



The screenshot shows a web browser window titled "Dictionary" with a search bar containing the word "incredible". Below the search bar, it says "ENTRIES FOUND: 1" and lists "incredible". The entry details include the phonetic transcription "in*cred*i*ble \ (')in-'kred-ə-bəl" with a speaker icon and the part of speech "adjective". It also provides a "Full Definition of INCREDIBLE" with two numbered definitions: "1 :unbelievable <an incredible story>" and "2 :extraordinary <incredible skill>". Below these are the noun and adverb forms: "— in*cred*ibil*i*ty\(')in-,kred-ə-'bil-ət-ē\noun" and "— in*cred*i*bly\(')in-'kred-ə-blē\adverb". The "Origin" section states: "Middle English *incredible* “too unusual to be believed,” from Latin *incredibilis* (same meaning), from *in-* “not” and *credibilis* “believable,” from *credere* “to believe, trust, entrust” —related to [credentials](#) [credit](#) [creed](#)".

STAAR Dictionary Policy: Electronic Dictionaries and Dictionary Applications

- Dictionary applications on a tablet, laptop, or desktop are allowable under the STAAR Dictionary Policy.
 - Features that are not allowable must be disabled or the application may not be used.
 - Bilingual dictionary applications may NOT be used as an [accessibility feature](#) on STAAR mathematics, science, or social studies assessments.
- For electronic dictionaries that are handheld devices, test administrators must ensure that any features that allow image capture, note taking, or uploading of files have been cleared of their contents before and after the test administration.

Dictionary Applications: Features NOT allowed

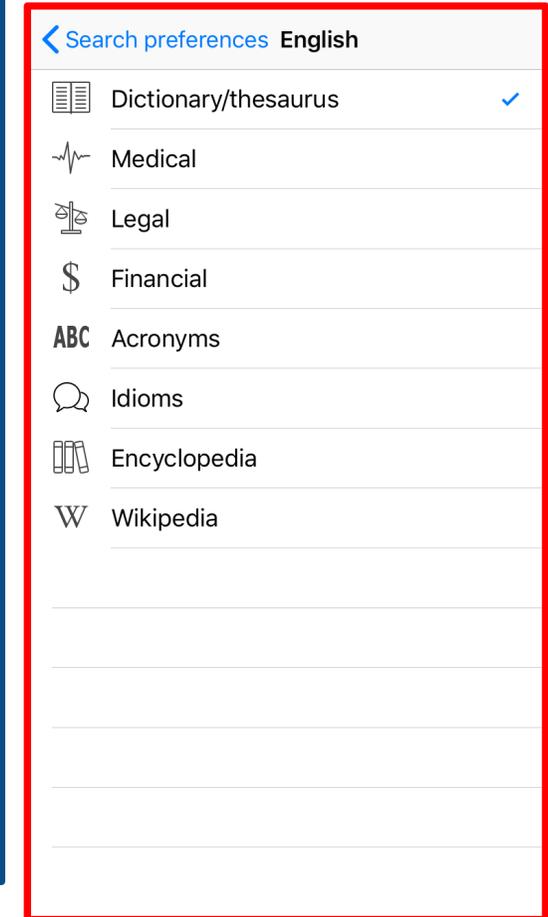
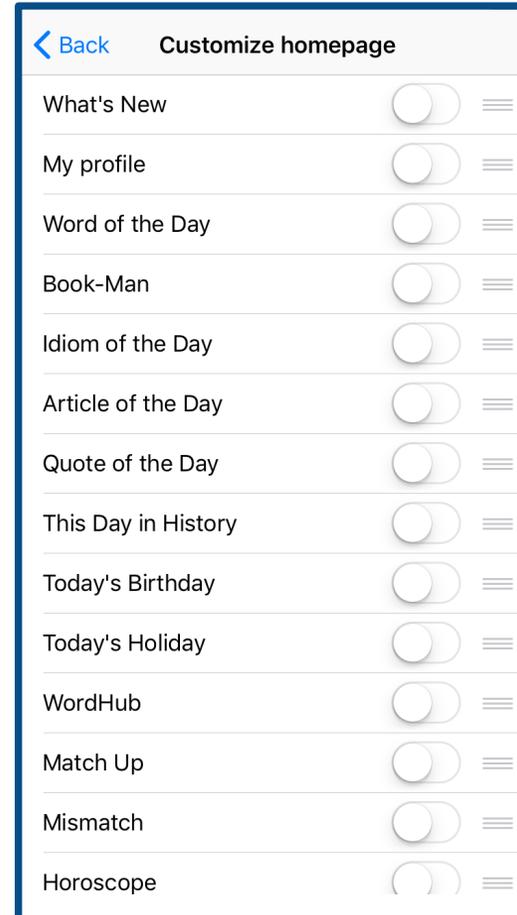
For all dictionary applications, these features/functions must be disabled as outlined in the technology guidelines.

- Internet-browsing
- Identify location of student or search by location
- Videos, animations, or extensive text to expand upon a definition
- E-mail, text, social media
- Games, quizzes, anagrams
- Image capture/camera
- Automatic upgrades and/or syncing on day of test
- Subject-specific or “slang” dictionaries
- Access to offline favorites or recent searches, including customized definitions/glossary
- Highlight words on a webpage to look up

Dictionary Applications: Disabling Features that are NOT Allowed



- These are examples of a dictionary application's settings screen which allow you to disable features that are **NOT** allowed or to select the features that **ARE** allowed.
- For assistance on how to disable features on your specific application, perform a web search or contact your district's information technology (IT) department or region service center's assistive technology representative.



STAAR Calculator Policy

- Specific calculators are required for students taking
 - STAAR grade 8 mathematics—graphing calculator
 - STAAR grade 8 science—calculator with basic (i.e., four-function), scientific, or graphing capability
 - STAAR Algebra I—graphing calculator
 - STAAR Biology—calculator with basic (i.e., four-function), scientific, or graphing capability

- Allowable Calculators
 - Handheld calculators
 - Calculator applications (applications on smartphones are not allowed)
 - Calculator tools in TDS

Calculator Applications: Features NOT Allowed

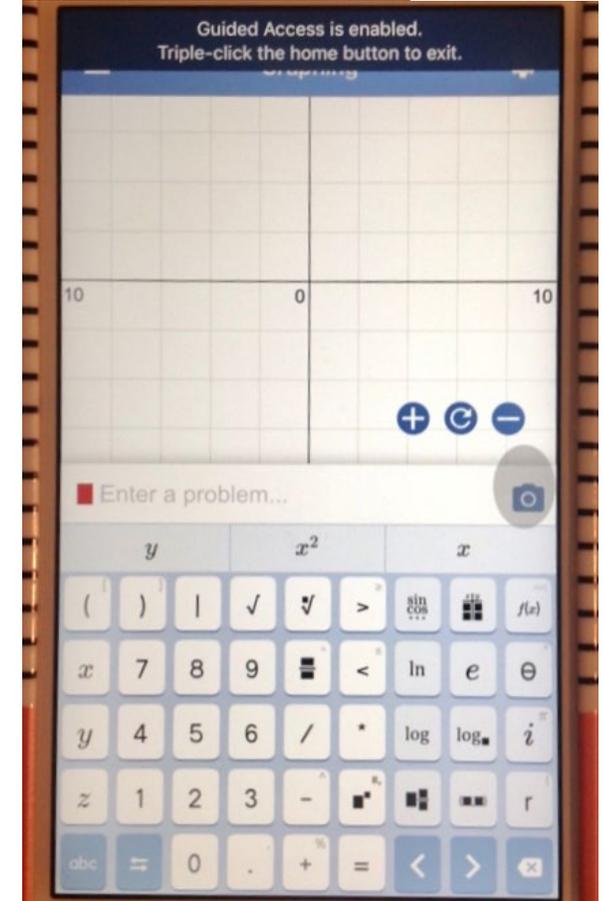
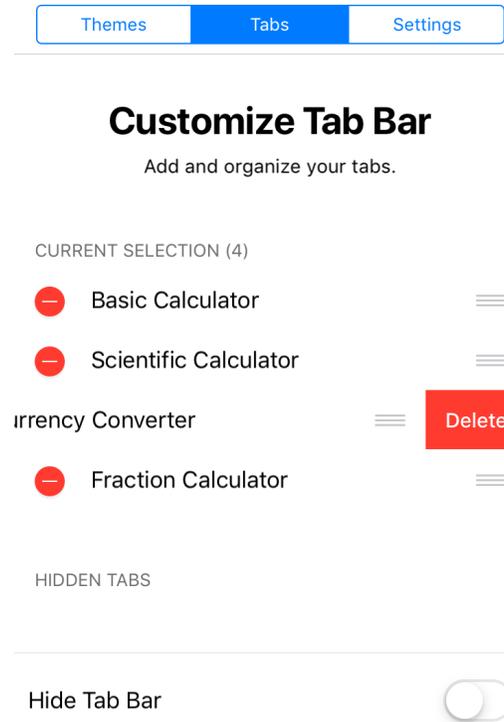
For all calculator applications, these features/functions must be disabled as outlined in the Technology Guidelines policy document.

- Functions that compromise the curriculum standards being assessed
- Internet capabilities (if a calculator application requires an internet connection in order to function it should be set in a mode that prevents the students from accessing an internet browser or accessing any other aids beyond the allowed supports)
- Features that allow access to other programs (put in kiosk mode or a districtwide Mobile Device Management system (MDM))
- Computer Algebra System
- Any feature that will allow the ability to share/e-mail a response
- Saved content (i.e., all memory) must be cleared to factory default both before and after testing. Any programs or applications that are not preinstalled by default must be removed or disabled prior to testing.

Calculator Applications: Disabling Features that are NOT allowed



- These are examples of:
 - Guided Access (i.e., kiosk mode), in which the camera feature was disabled, and
 - a calculator application's settings screen which allows you to disable features that are **NOT** allowed or to select the features that **ARE** allowed.
- For assistance on how to disable features on your specific application, perform a web search or contact your district's IT department or region service center's assistive technology representative.



Example of Calculator Applications that Compromise the Standard being Assessed

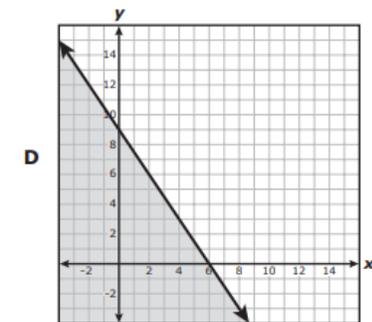
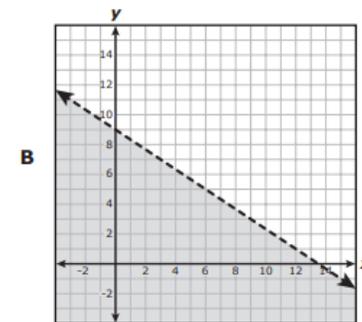
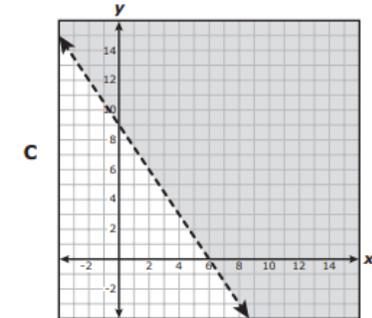
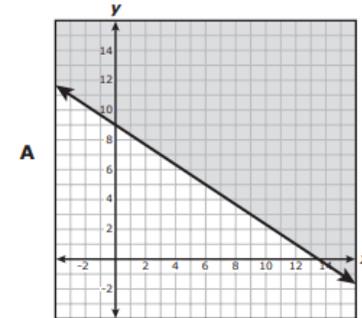
- **Test item from the released 2018 Algebra I EOC test:**

(A.3) **Number and operations.** Linear functions, equations, and inequalities. The student applies the mathematical process standards when using graphs of linear functions, key features, and related transformations to represent in multiple ways and solve, with and without technology, equations, inequalities, and systems of equations. The student is expected to: (D) graph the solution set of linear inequalities in two variables on the coordinate plane; *Supporting Standard*

To determine which graph best represents the solution set of $-4x \leq 6y - 54$, the student could have first isolated the y on one side of the inequality. The first step to isolate y is to add 54 to both sides of the inequality, resulting in $-4x + 54 \leq 6y$. The next step is to divide both sides of the inequality by 6, resulting in $-\frac{4}{6}x + 9 \leq y$ or $y \geq -\frac{4}{6}x + 9$, which can be simplified to $y \geq -\frac{2}{3}x + 9$. The student could have then determined that the " \geq " symbol means "greater than or equal to" and the correct solution will be shaded above a solid line (to indicate that points on and above the line are part of the solution). Also, the line will cross the y -axis (vertical axis) at 9 and will have a slope (steepness of a straight line when graphed on a coordinate grid, $m = \frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1}$) of $-\frac{2}{3}$. The rationale for the correct answer is an efficient way to solve the problem. However, other methods could be used to solve the problem correctly.

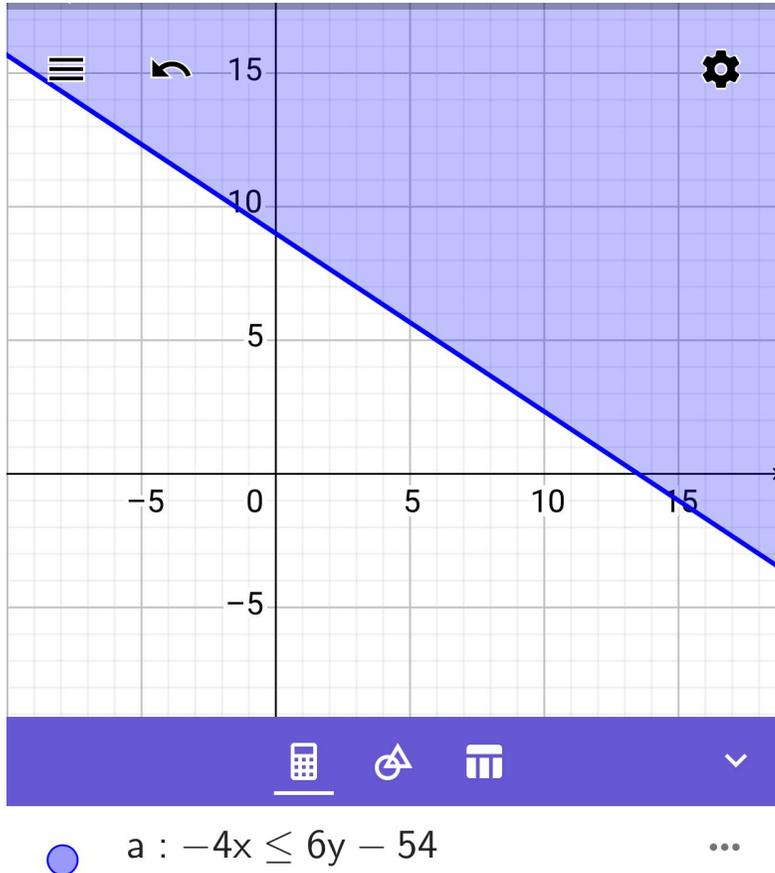
- **Rationale for option A as the correct answer:**

Which graph best represents the solution set of $-4x \leq 6y - 54$?



- **The next slide shows how a calculator application can be used to find the correct answer to this item without requiring the student to demonstrate his/her understanding of the student expectation.**

Example of Calculator Applications that Compromise the Standard being Assessed



- The example to the left shows how the correct answer to the item on the previous slide may be determined by simply typing the inequality into the calculator application.

Some calculator applications may not comply with technology use guidelines because they compromise the standards being assessed, even when the application is in *testing mode*. Careful consideration should be given to the use of applications during testing so that the application itself is not a direct source of answers.

Designated Supports that May Include Technology

■ Basic Transcribing



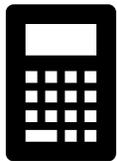
- Word processor
- Speech-to-text

■ Spelling Assistance



- Spell-check
- Word prediction
- Text-to-speech
- Speech-to-text

■ Calculation Aids for grades 3-7



- Basic (i.e., four-function) calculator

Use of Technology with the Basic Transcribing Policy

The test administrator may carry out Basic Transcribing to transfer an eligible student's responses onto the test booklet, answer document, or into the online testing platform in these situations:

- The student dictates or signs responses for multiple-choice and griddable questions.
- The student types responses on a word processor for multiple-choice questions, griddable questions, or questions requiring a written constructed response.
- The student uses speech-to-text technology to indicate responses for multiple-choice questions, griddable questions, or the writing prompt, including the use of the online embedded support in the Test Delivery System (TDS)
- The student dictates or signs information to be recorded in the notes tool for online tests (does NOT apply to math calculations or responses to the written composition).

Basic Transcribing: Word Processor Features NOT Allowed

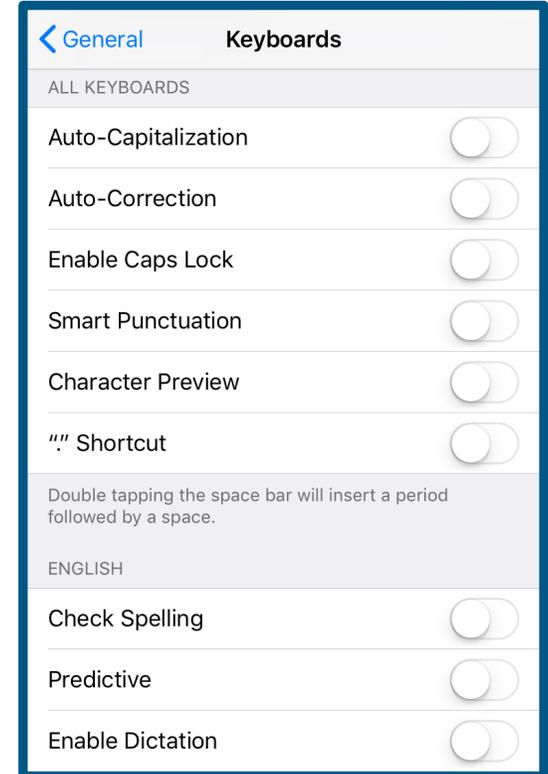
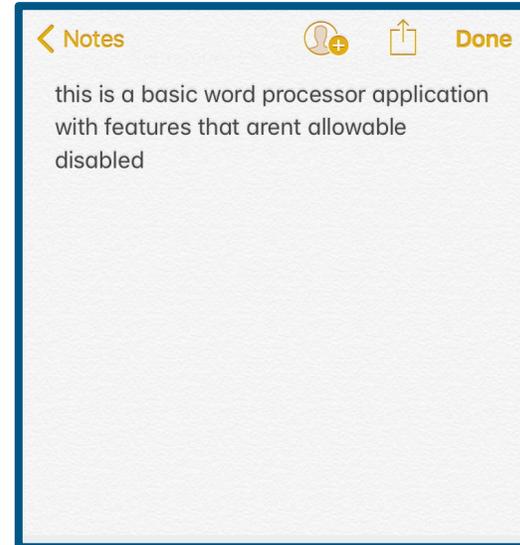
If the eligible student is taking an online test, a separate desktop or laptop may be necessary, or the online test will need to have Permissive Mode enabled so the student can access the appropriate software. Features that must be disabled or made unavailable as outlined in the [Technology Guidelines](#) for eligible students receiving this designated support include:

- internet capabilities (If a word processing software requires an internet connection to function, it should be set in a mode that prevents the student from accessing an internet browser or accessing any other aids beyond the allowed supports.);
- any feature that will allow the ability to access other programs/features not allowed on the device;
- any feature that will edit or aid a student's response (e.g., spell-check, word predictor, auto-correct for punctuation, capitalization, etc.);
- saving capabilities (If a word processing software requires a student's response to be temporarily saved, the district must ensure the file is permanently deleted after the administration.); and
- any feature that will allow the ability to share/email a response.

Basic Transcribing: Disabling Features that are NOT Allowed in a Word Processor

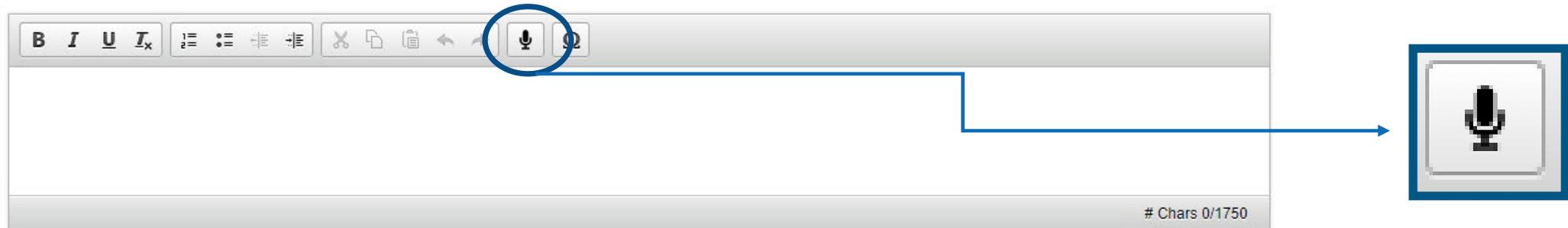


- This is an example of a tablet's keyboard settings which allow you to disable features that are **NOT** allowed.
- For assistance on how to disable features on your specific application, perform a web search or contact your district's IT department or region service center's assistive technology representative.



Basic Transcribing: Speech to Text (Online Embedded Support Tool)

- Available for English and Spanish written responses only
- Students eligible for speech-to-text can click on the Microphone icon to activate the speech-to-text functionality



- Students using speech-to-text should allow for enough time to edit their responses prior to the end of the testing session
- Speech-to-Text must be enabled as a test attribute before the test is administered

NOTE: When speech-to-text is enabled, all other text editing tools are unavailable

Basic Transcribing: Speech to Text Features NOT Allowed

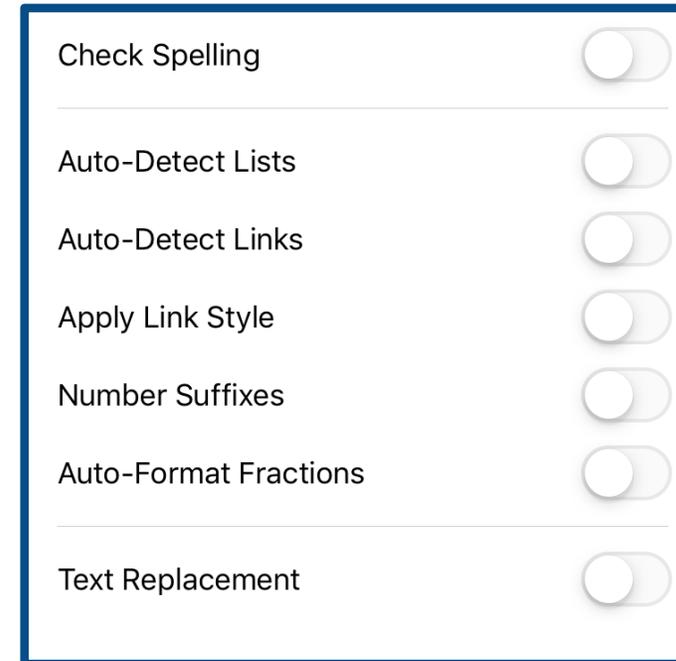
When using speech to text technology, the following features must be disabled:

- any feature that will edit or aid a student's response, such as, but not limited to:
 - grammar check (i.e., automatic underline that indicates to student a correction is needed)
- any feature that will save a typed response (If a speech-to-text application requires a student's response to be temporarily saved, the district must ensure the file is permanently deleted after the administration.);
- any feature that will allow the ability to share/e-mail a response;
- internet capabilities (If a speech-to-text application requires an internet connection to function, it should be set in a mode that prevents the student from accessing an internet browser or accessing any other aids beyond the allowed supports.);
- translation services; and
- any feature that will allow the ability to access other programs/features not allowed on the device.

Basic Transcribing: Disabling Features that are NOT Allowed when using Speech to Text



- This is an example of a speech-to-text application's settings, which allow you to disable features that are **NOT** allowed.
- For assistance on how to disable features on your specific application, perform a web search or contact your district's IT department or region service center's assistive technology representative.



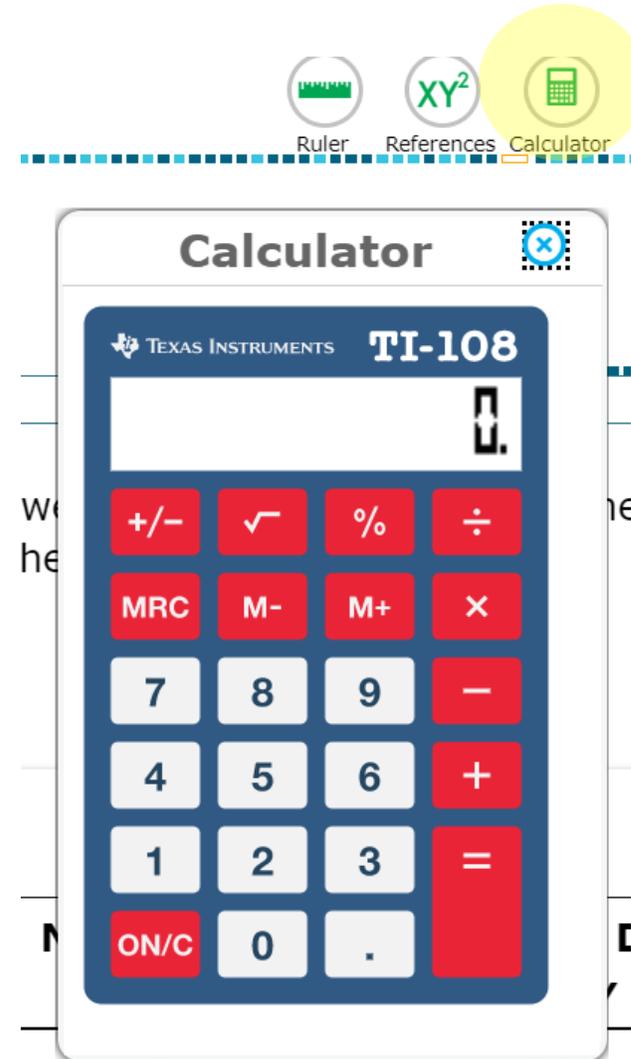
Calculation Aids Designated Support Policy

For eligible students taking a grade 3–7 STAAR or STAAR Spanish math or science assessment, ONLY the following calculators may be used:

- basic (i.e., four-function) handheld calculator or calculator application, including large-key or speech-output
- basic Calculator available as an online embedded support on STAAR
- abacus or Cranmer modified abacus
- 0–9 addition grid without special numbers (e.g., even numbers) indicated
- grade-appropriate multiplication grid without special numbers (e.g., perfect squares) indicated

Online Basic Calculator Tool

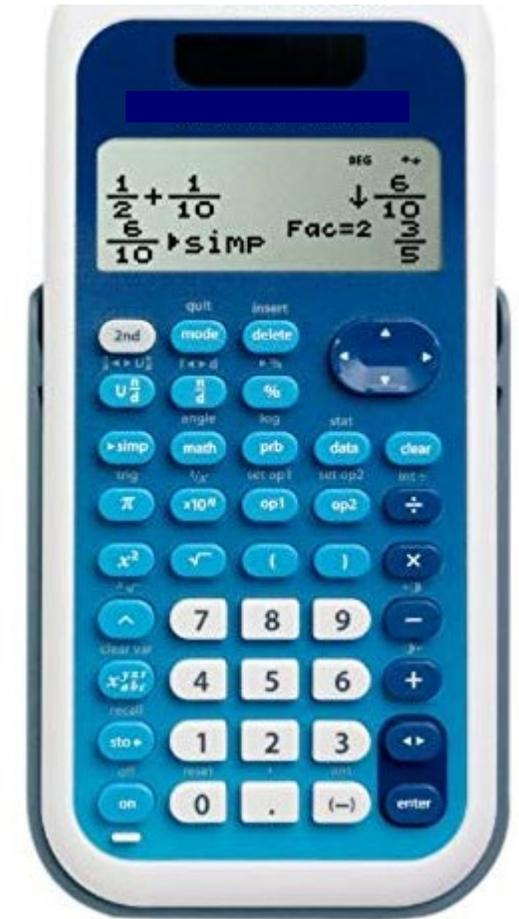
- For questions regarding the functions of a basic calculator (i.e., four function), see the embedded Texas Instruments calculator in the TDS online practice tests.
- TI Calculator should be enabled on the test attributes screen.
- For eligible students in grades 3-7, a Basic Calculator is available as built-in embedded support on TDS



Example of Calculator Functions that Compromise the Standard Being Assessed

- (5.3) **Number and operations.** The student applies mathematical process standards to develop and use strategies and methods for positive rational number computations in order to solve problems with efficiency and accuracy. The student is expected to
- (H) represent and solve addition and subtraction of fractions with unequal denominators referring to the same whole using objects and pictorial models and properties of operations; **Supporting Standard**

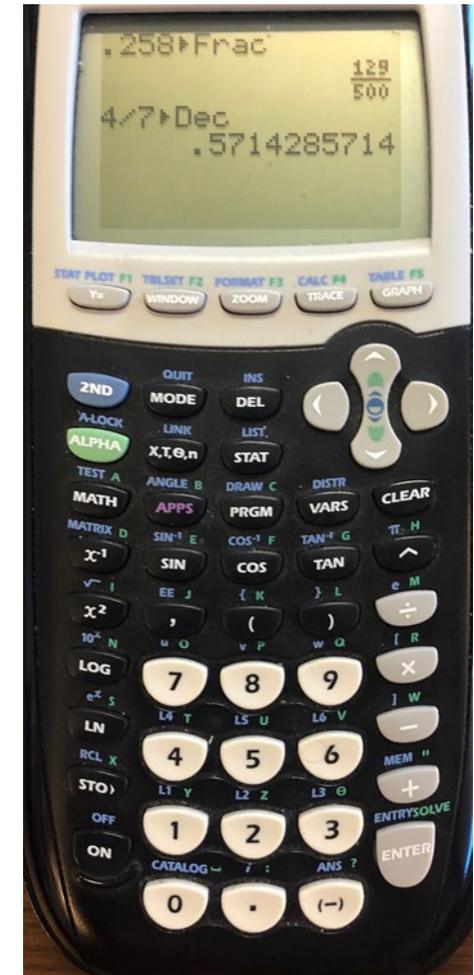
Some calculation applications have a function that will not allow for an accurate assessment of this standard. While this function is NOT allowable under the Calculation Aids designated support policy, it is allowable under the STAAR Calculator Policy for grade 8 mathematics, grade 8 science, Algebra I, and biology.



Example of Calculator Functions that Compromise the Standard Being Assessed

- (6.4) **Proportionality**. The student applies mathematical process standards to develop an understanding of proportional relationships in problem situations. The student is expected to:
- (G) generate equivalent forms of fractions, decimals, and percents using real-world problems, including problems that involve money; **Readiness Standard**

Some calculation applications have a function that will not allow for an accurate assessment of this standard. While this function is NOT allowable under the Calculation Aids designated support policy, it is allowable under the STAAR Calculator Policy for grade 8 mathematics, grade 8 science, Algebra I, and biology.

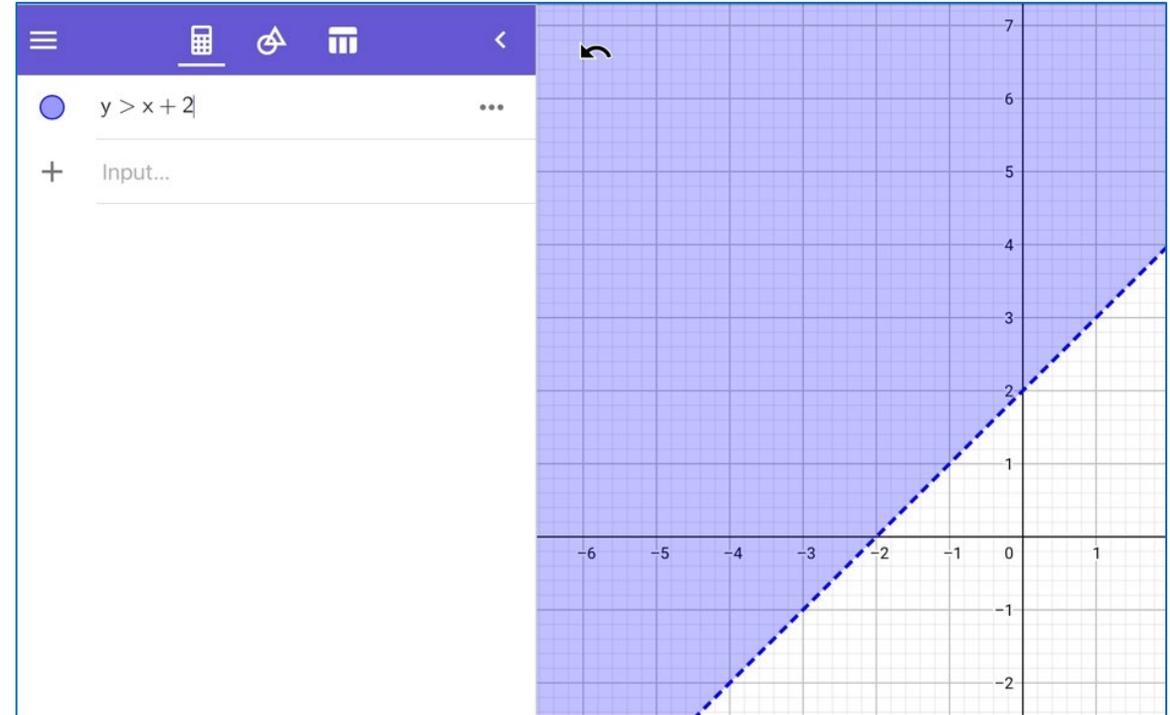


Example of Calculator Functions that Compromise the Standards Being Assessed



- (7.11) **Expressions, equations, and relationships.** The student applies mathematical process standards to solve one-variable equations and inequalities. The student is expected to
- (A) model and solve one-variable, two-step equations and inequalities; **Readiness Standard**

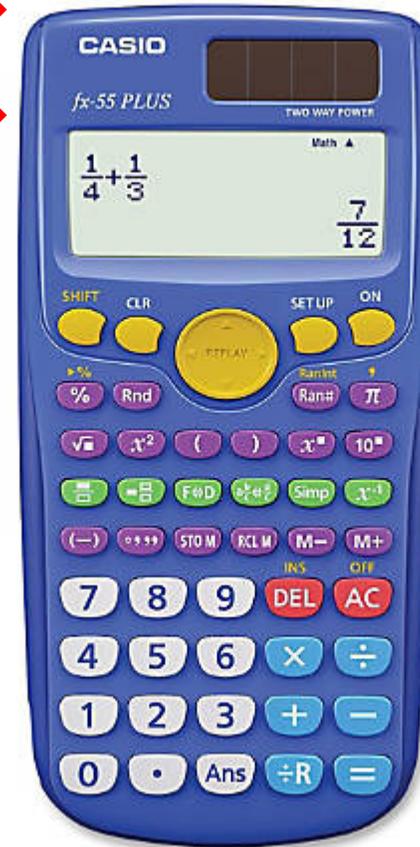
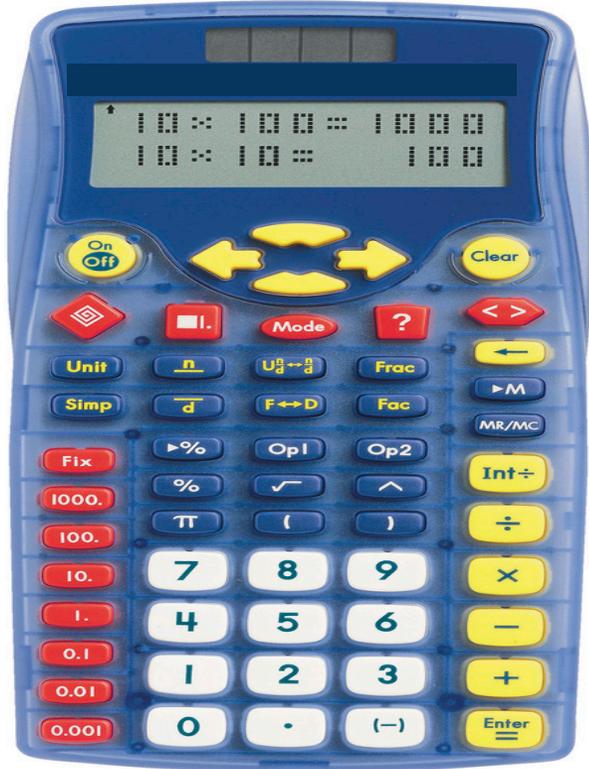
Some calculation applications have a graphing function that will not allow for an accurate assessment of this standard. While this function is NOT allowable under the Calculation Aids designated support policy, it is allowable under the STAAR Calculator Policy for grade 8 mathematics, grade 8 science, Algebra I, and biology.



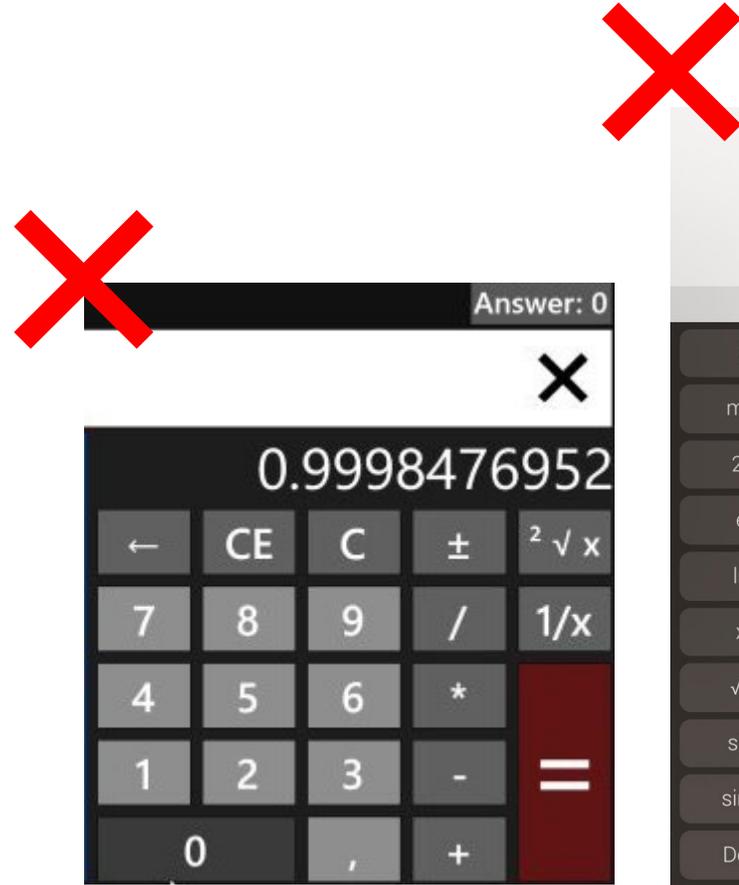
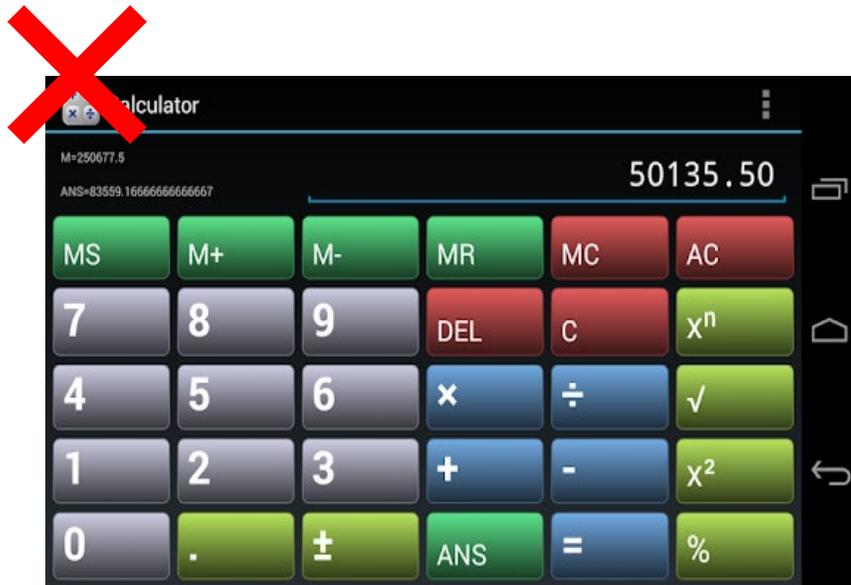
Examples of Basic (i.e., Four-Function Handheld Calculator)



Examples of Handheld Calculators that are **NOT** Basic (i.e., Four-Function)



Examples of Calculator Applications that are **NOT** Basic (i.e., Four-Function)

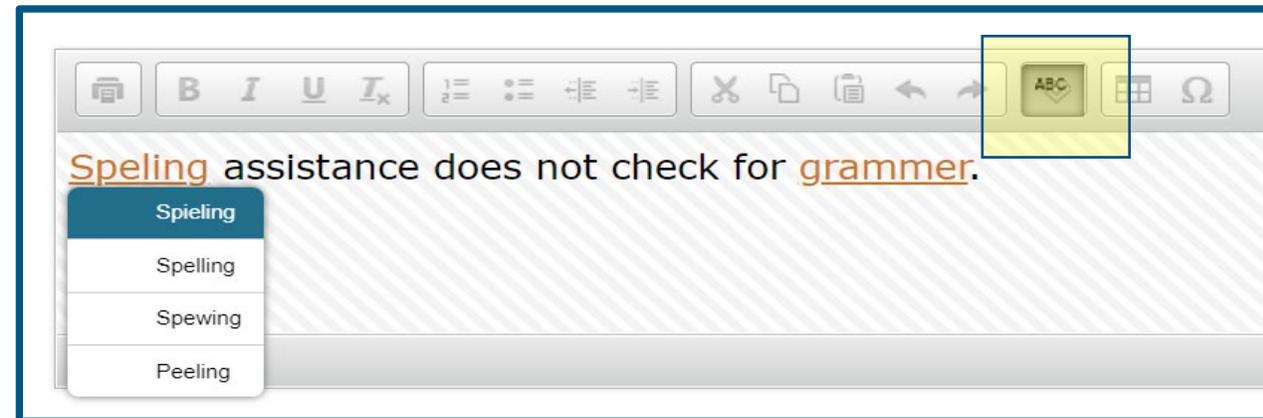
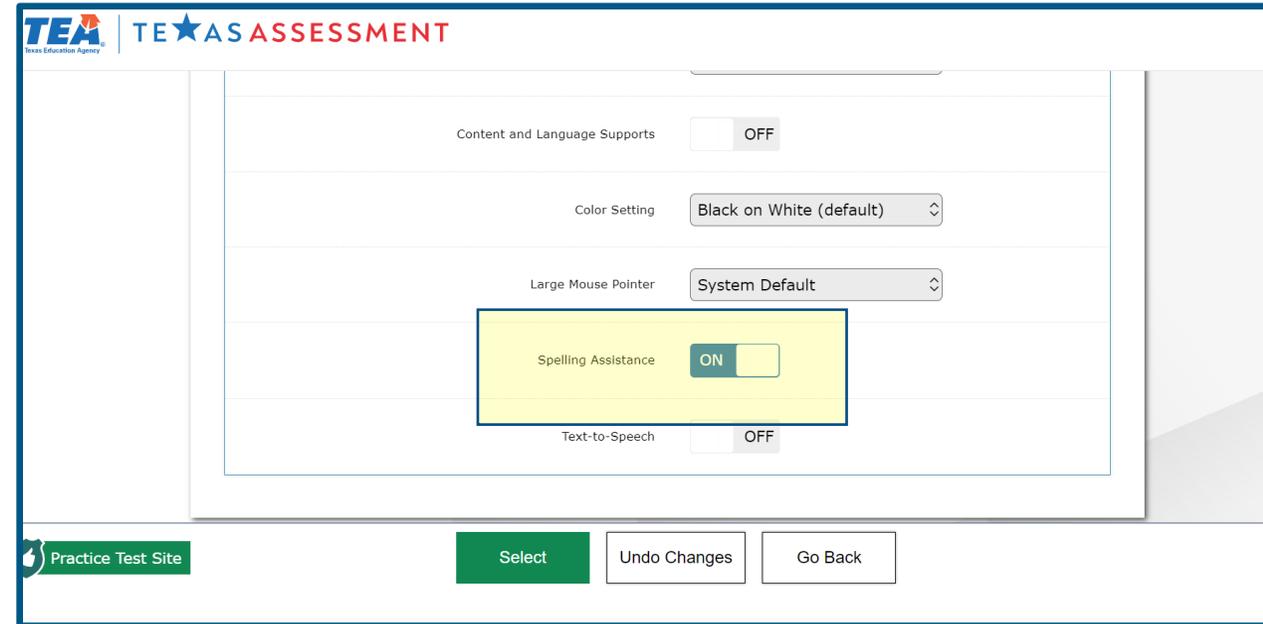


Spelling Assistance Designated Support Policy

- For a student who meets the eligibility criteria, this designated support may be used only on
 - STAAR EOC English I and English II (written composition ONLY)
- This designated support may include only
 - visual sound cards;
 - frequently misspelled word list (e.g., student-made, teacher-made, commercially produced);
 - spellcheck function on a word processor or as an online embedded support on STAAR;
 - pocket spellchecker;
 - word prediction software;
 - text-to-speech (TTS) software or devices; and
 - speech-to-text (STT) software, applications, or devices, including the use of the speech-to-text online embedded support in the Test Delivery System (TDS).

Online Embedded Spelling Assistance Tool

- When a word is not found in the dictionary source list, it will be flagged.
 - The tool evaluates the words independent of the context. It does not check for errors in grammar.
- The tool is available in practice tests online. It can be enabled on the attributes screen before the student begins the test.
- Not every student eligible for the spelling assistance designated support will use this support. Only students who routinely use a spell-check feature may benefit from this embedded support. Eligible students should practice using this support to determine if it meets their needs.
- Students may use any allowable examples or types of spelling assistance listed in the designated support policy document in lieu of or in addition to this online embedded support.



Spelling Assistance Features NOT Allowed

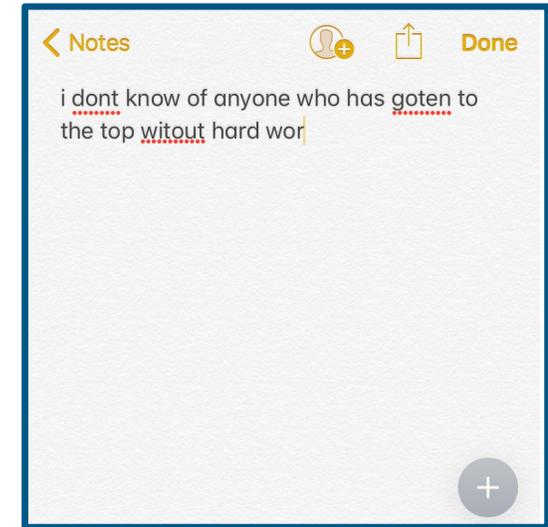
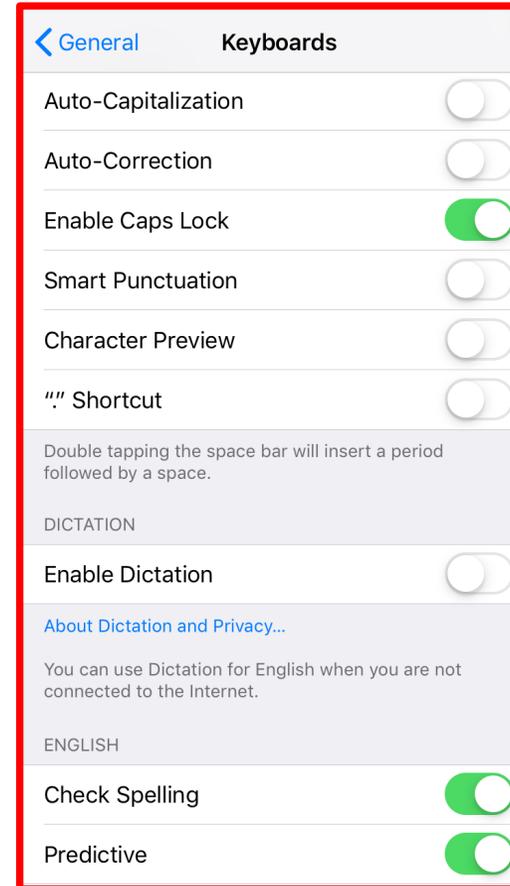
An eligible student may use spelling assistance technology (i.e., spell check, pocket spellchecker, word prediction, text-to-speech, speech-to-text) outside of the testing platform if he/she routinely uses this designated support in instruction. This may be in the form of an application on a tablet or software on a desktop or laptop. Features that must be disabled or made unavailable as outlined in the [Technology Guidelines](#) for eligible students receiving this designated support include:

- any feature that will edit or aid a student's response in areas other than spelling, such as automatic capitalization and punctuation, or grammar check;
- any feature that will save a typed response (if a spelling assistance software requires a student's response to be temporarily saved, the district must ensure the file is permanently deleted after the administration);
- any feature that will allow the ability to share/e-mail a response;
- internet capabilities (if a spelling assistance software requires an internet connection to function, it should be set in a mode that prevents the student from accessing an internet browser or accessing any other aids beyond the allowed supports);
- translation services; and
- any feature that will allow the ability to access other programs/features not allowed on the device.

Spelling Assistance: Disabling Features NOT Allowed



- This is an example of a tablet's keyboard settings which allow you to disable features that are **NOT** allowed and to select the features that **ARE** allowed.
- For assistance on how to disable features on your specific application, perform a web search or contact your district's IT department or region service center's assistive technology representative.



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