

## Education Program

Series 600

Policy Title: Accountability Test Integrity/Test Preparation

Code No. 605. 8

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The Marshalltown Community School District is committed to ensuring the integrity of the information obtained from the use of educational assessments. This policy is intended to apply to assessments used to meet the reporting requirements under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). These assessments include the following required state assessments: Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Progress (ISASP), Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM), English Language Proficiency Assessment for the 21st Century (ELPA21), early literacy assessment for K-3, and the Early Literacy Alternate Assessment (EL-AA).

The purpose of this policy is to identify procedures that can ensure assessment results are truly representative of the achievement of students in our district. The policy also intends to create awareness of the potential negative impact that inappropriate assessment practices might produce, to outline processes to be followed, and to identify the potential consequences of violating the policy. If test scores become questionable because of inappropriate practices in either preparing students or in administering tests, the meaning of the scores will be distorted and their value for their original purpose will be diminished or lost.

### **Appointment of District Test Coordinator**

The district shall appoint a District Test Coordinator, who may in turn delegate responsibility for testing-related functions to one or more Building Test Coordinators. The

District Test Coordinator is the Director of Instruction. The District Test Coordinator is responsible for storing materials from Iowa Testing Programs in a secure area with restricted access both prior to and after the testing period.

### **Testing Preparation**

As a function of educating students, staff should prepare students for assessments by providing instruction in the content areas to be assessed. Staff may also prepare students for assessments by teaching general test-taking skills that are applicable to any test or test format.

Staff shall not conduct reviews or drills that use actual test items or identical format items from the accountability assessments, use copies of tests from previous years, or review test-specific curriculum content with students at any time.

### **Administration of Tests**

In the administration of standardized tests, it is a violation of test security to do any of the following:

1. Provide inappropriate test preparation such as any of the following:
  - a. Copy, reproduce, or use in any manner any portion of any secure test booklet, for any reason.
  - b. Share an actual test instrument in any form.
  - c. Use test preparation materials or strategies developed specifically for Annual Progress Reporting or the Annual Yearly Progress report.
2. Deviate from the test administration procedures specified in the test examiner's manual.
3. Provide inappropriate assistance to students during the test administration.

4. Make test answers available to students.
5. Change or fill in answers on student answer documents.
6. Provide inaccurate data on student answer documents.
7. Engage in any practice to artificially raise student scores without actually improving underlying student achievement.
8. Participate in, direct, aid, counsel, assist, encourage, or fail to report any of the acts prohibited in this policy.

After testing is completed, test booklets are to be returned according to procedures established by the District Test Coordinator.

### **Consequences of Policy Violations**

If a violation of this policy occurs, as determined by the Superintendent following an investigation of allegations of irregularities, the Superintendent shall determine whether the integrity of the testing program has been jeopardized, whether some or all of the test results are invalidated, and whether a teacher or administrator has violated the Code of Ethics of the Iowa Board of Educational Examiners as found at 282-Iowa Administrative Code chapter 25.

Reports of students cheating on assessments shall be submitted to the building principal for investigation and disciplinary procedures.

A staff member found to have committed testing irregularities shall be subject to discipline in accordance with law and Board policy. If the staff member is a licensee of the Board of Educational Examiners, the Superintendent shall make a timely report to that Board.

If the Superintendent believes that assessment results are invalid, the Superintendent shall make a timely report to the Iowa Department of Education.

Adopted: June 19, 2006

Legal Reference: (Code of Iowa)

Reviewed: August 17, 2009  
August 18, 2014

Amended: December 17, 2018

Cross Reference: