



CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

TOM TORLAKSON

STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

April 27, 2012

Dear District and County Superintendents and Charter School Administrators and STAR District Coordinators:

Ensuring the Security of the Standardized Testing and Reporting Program Assessments

I would like to remind you of the importance of maintaining security and protecting the integrity of the Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) Program tests. Recently, STAR test security was compromised when students posted images of actual test questions, answer documents, and test booklets to social networking sites. The California Department of Education (CDE) takes these breaches in security very seriously and has taken steps to address these incidents, but requests your help, and reminds you that you have a responsibility to prevent any such incidences in the future.

According to *Title 5, California Code of Regulations (5 CCR)*, Section 858, it is the responsibility of district and site coordinators, as well as each test examiner, to maintain security of all test materials. The *California Standards Test Directions for Administration* require that you make sure students clear their desks of and stow away all books, electronic devices, and other materials not needed for the test. These devices are not to be available to students during any portion of the testing session. In the event that you identify a security breach or testing irregularity, regulations (*5 CCR* Section 859) require that you immediately notify the CDE.

Please remind site coordinators and test examiners that compromises to valid and reliable test results will have a consequential impact on fair and accurate reporting of school and district academic accountability as part of the Accountability Progress Reporting (APR) System. Ensure that all test examiners, proctors, and other school personnel responsible for test administration are properly trained and that they understand, and sign, a STAR Test Security Affidavit or STAR Test Security Agreement.

Thank you for your continued support and assistance. If you have questions regarding this issue, please contact John Boivin, Administrator of the STAR Program & Assessment Transition Office, by phone at 916-319-0575 or e-mail at jboivin@cde.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Deborah V.H. Sigman
Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction
District, School, and Innovation Branch

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