



# Why is Test Security So Important?

- To ensure that assessment results are accurate and meaningful
- To truly reflect a valid and reliable measure of each student's knowledge
- To protect the enormous investments of resources, time, and energy that go into assessments
- Disregarding test security can lead to investigations, invalidations, or in extreme circumstances, even jail!

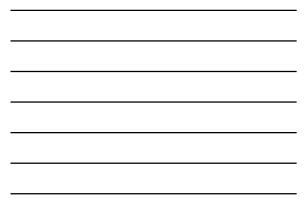




# The Atlanta Cheating Scandal

- District-wide falsification of answer sheets by teachers and administrators
- Discovered after newspaper reported unusual jump in test scores on the Criterion-Referenced Competency Tests (CRTC)
- Investigation uncovered rampant, widespread cheating
- 30+ Atlanta school employees charged under RICO (Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations) statute for conspiring in order to receive bonuses tied to high test scores

Common Test Security	133063	
BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER	Paper/Pencil	Computer-Based Testi
Lost or stolen booklets	•	
Obtaining unauthorized access to secure assessment materials	•	•
Educators logging into tests to view questions or change responses		•
Hacking into computers		•
RFFORF	P/P	CBT
Educators or students engaging others to take a test on a student's behalf	111	CBI
Educators of students engaging others to take a test on a student's benan		
DURING		
Students giving or receiving unauthorized assistance from other students during a test		
administration		
Teachers providing answers to students during testing	•	•
Students accessing non-allowable resources (notes, textbooks, the Internet)	•	•
Taking photos of test items or live testing environment and sharing them on the Internet		
or Social Media	•	•
Accommodations being used inappropriately to cheat	•	•
Keystroke logging		•
AFTER	P/P	CBT
Erasing wrong answers (P/P) or changing responses on the computer (CBT)		•
Reconstructing assessment materials through memorization		•
Memorized test items or answers being posted online		•
Printing, emailing, or storing test information in a computer outside the test delivery		
system		
Accessing or altering assessment materials or scores during the transfer of data		



#### A Brief Digression about Security and Social Media Ø

- Pictures of, and/or discussion about test items on social media steadily on the rise
- No age barrier

- Not limited to just students
- Twitter wins the "Social Media Incident Award" for 2015 – 72% of Michigan's social media incidents
- 🛐 Instagram the "runner up" 12% of incidents
- Facebook and Snapchat get "honorable mention"

How MDE Detects Test Security Issues							
Incident/Irregularity Reports	Unethical Line						
<ul> <li>Link provided before testing for schools/districts to self- report issue(s)</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Public-facing phone number where anyone can report an issue</li> <li>Typically anonymous calls</li> </ul>						

How MDE Detects Test Security Issues				
In-person Monitoring	Social Media Monitoring			
<ul> <li>Random Monitoring - Schools are randomly chosen for unannounced visits during testing</li> <li>Targeted Monitoring- Unannounced visits to schools with security issues in prior test administrations</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>OSA contractors use "web patrol" software to monitor for test security breaches, e.g., photos of items, photos of classrooms testing, discussion of specific live test items</li> </ul>			

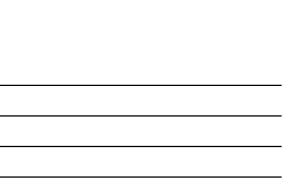
#### 3

# Dispelling the Myths about Social Media Monitoring

- OSA is ONLY looking for security breaches
- OSA is not:
  - searching for and asking users to remove negative opinions about testing
  - invading privacy only looking at public-facing sites

How MDE Detects Test Security Issues						
Telemetry Reports	Post-Test Forensic Analysis					
<ul> <li>Every action/keystroke is logged during online testing</li> <li>Reports can tell us login attempts, login times, unusual patterns</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Unusual Scores Gains – extreme group/cohort gains</li> <li>Similarity Analysis – analyzing items responses for unusual similarity</li> <li>Corrective Change Analysis – incorrect to correct responses</li> <li>Person Fit Analysis – student(s) responding in unexpected ways</li> </ul>					

										-					
iade 1	Sanderet.Avea	Grade Tested	Assessment Name	Test Part	Liboade	Test Event (2)	Kart Gale	stat Time	and two	IndTime	Lad Name	Rectore	-	Pacoword	Telenetty Findings
	LA.	67	G 7 ILA Performance Task		99303899775 2	1	2013-05-		2113-05- 02	ET 44.04.000				XQMPV2V	REFERENCE IN THE STATE OF A COMPARISON OF A STATE OF A
	LA.		G 7 ELA Performance Task		99000899775 2	1	2015-05-	07-40-32-418	2013-05- 02	ET 44 04-000				XQMPV2V	REFITED LINEST J -SPORATE TAM THAT I I of I question answer 1/2/25 Bill AM Chamadoon
			G 7 EA Performance		***		2013-05-		2113-05-					-	853856 128751 W0555433 TM 1557 1 2 of 2 question large 1/2/33 7.44 AM



#### How OSA Reacts to Test Security Issues – Self Investigations

- Following a reported incident or complaint, OSA may determine that questions remain and will ask the district to investigate issue and submit formal report and signed statements, with a detailed chain of events and steps taken to remediate issue.
- Thorough self-reports often eliminate the need for OSA to take serious action.

#### How MDE Reacts to Test Security Issues – Independent Investigations

- Following a reported incident, complaint, or insufficient selfinvestigation report, OSA may launch a formal investigation using independent investigators.
- Investigation teams will arrive unannounced, they may request copies of staff communications and interview staff and/or students.
- The role of investigators is strictly to identify any relevant facts and send report to OSA.
- Independent investigation teams are typically a mix of lawenforcement (e.g., detectives) and education assessment professionals (e.g., ex-assessment coordinators).

## Determinations

After reviewing all information and evidence, OSA makes one of the following determinations:

- There was no irregularity and the case is closed.
- A self-correction was completed OSA determines that the school properly resolved the issue and the case is closed.
- The irregularity led to a breach in test security.
- The irregularity resulted in an invalid test administration.
- The irregularity resulted in academic fraud.

## Consequences

If MDE finds an irregularity led to a **security breach**, possible consequences include:

- District liability for the cost of item re-development and re-administration (could encompass the entire state)
- Re-testing within the test cycle period (potential costs to the district)
- Invalidation of scores with no opportunity for re-testing
- Placement on OSA monitoring list for next year

## Consequences (cont.)

If MDE finds an irregularity resulted in an **invalid administration**, possible consequences include:

- Re-testing within the test cycle period (potential cost to the district)
- Students in suspected grades and subjects are given an audit test — a parallel form of the test; scores between the two tests will be analyzed
- · Invalidation of scores with no opportunity for re-testing
- · Placement on monitoring list for next year
- School required to file a training plan with OSA
- School required to inform parents and local school board public of a misadministration and that scores will be invalidated

## Consequences cont.

If MDE finds an irregularity resulted in academic fraud, possible consequences

- Re-testing within the test cycle period (potential costs to the district)
- Invalidation of scores with no opportunity for re-testing
- Placement on monitoring list for next year
- Test booklets or test tickets will be held in abeyance under the supervision of the state-appointed monitor and delivered on the day of testing. The Assessment Monitor will closely observe testing and collect and return answer documents or destroy test tickets
- Personnel involved in an irregularity may not be allowed to administer any state assessment
- District Superintendent will be notified so that the district may take necessary personnel actions
- School is required to file a training plan with OSA
- School is required to inform parents and local school board of a misadministration and that the student test scores will be invalid

# Easy Ways to Stay out of Trouble

- Provide training for staff in appropriate test security, test preparation, test administration procedures, and accommodations.
- Supervise assessment materials closely they should be secure at all times.
- Follow standardized test administration procedures and directions explicitly according to manuals.
- Closely monitor students and enforce a strict "no cell phone" policy.
- Document everything chains of custody, seating charts, etc.
- If you see something, say something!
- Cooperate with OSA if something arises





# Thank you!