

# USBE Elementary Mathematics Calculator Usage

In general, technology in the mathematics standards is prominent at the high school level, less at the middle school level, and least at the elementary level. The elementary mathematics standards have a strong focus on building foundational skills and fluency in arithmetic, specifically in grade K-5. Arithmetic is a foundational skill that requires fluency as well as building conceptual richness, which is a precursor for algebraic concepts. The standards were developed to have students develop a deeper understand of mathematics and to use a variety of strategies to come to mathematical solutions. Thus, working with numbers by hand was purposeful in the design of the standards in the formative grades. Calculation devices/aids are not appropriate to be used in grades K-5 and only minimal in Grade 6. It is critical to note that for students who have an IEP or 504, that outlines the use of calculators as an instructional strategy or accommodation, it is not appropriate to use as an accommodation on the state standardized assessment, as it may alter the validity and score interpretation of the assessment. Therefore, the student will still NOT be able to use the calculator during statewide RISE assessments for grades 3-5 and must follow the guidelines for use in 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

USBE has developed a calculator statement that aligns to the focus of the standards in the elementary grades.

## Grades 3-5: Calculator NOT allowed.

- Not available on screen.
- Cannot bring in their own or use one during instruction.
- Information based on the Utah State Core Standards and students in these grades needing to build basic computation skills and knowledge.

## Grade 6: Calculator allowed on certain items.

- Available ONLY onscreen.
- Cannot bring in their own or one used during instruction.
- Students on an IEP or 504 can bring in a handheld calculator to use on the calculator items. They may only use it if noted in their IEP or 504 plan and it can ONLY be used on the items that a calculator is allowed on.

## Grade 7 and Grade 8: Calculators are allowed on all items.

- The calculator is available onscreen.
- Students may also provide their own calculators or use a classroom calculator that was used during classroom instruction (e.g., scientific, graphing, or basic).
- Phones or other internet-capable devices are NOT allowed during testing.