Math Statewide
Computer Based Testing Resources and Questions

Add any resources here that you have found helpful in supporting your teachers with the move to Computer-Based Testing:
- eDoctrina
- [Questar/Nextera sampler](#) to practice
- https://ny.nextera.questarai.com/tds/#practice
- [Edcite](#) - paid and would need EdLaw2d agreement
- [Castle Learning](#) starting to add tools like Questar browser but not for CR questions
- NYSED's [CBT support](#) page
- Questions/concerns?
  - cbtsupport@nysed.gov - specific to cbt
  - emscassessinfo@nysed.gov - assessment questions in general

Add any questions that you may have to the table below.

If you know of any answer, feel free to add it to the Answer column. When possible, cite where you found that answer

Any unanswered questions, we will plan to bring to SED.

Questions	Answers
Will students still be allowed to use their own physical calculator because the online one in the Question Sampler is not like the one they use in our districts? Piggy backing on this, why are students now limited to only one calculator?	Check page 23 (p. 27 in pdf) of the [Educator guide](#) **Calculators** Students in Grades 3–5 are **NOT** permitted to use a calculator on the 2023 Mathematics Tests. Students in Grade 6 are **NOT** permitted to use a calculator with Session 1. For Session 2, students should have exclusive **use of a four-function calculator with a square root key or a scientific calculator**. Graphing calculators are **NOT** permitted. Students in Grades 7–8 should have exclusive **use of a scientific calculator** for both Session 1 and Session 2. Graphing calculators are **NOT** permitted. For students testing on computers in Grades 6–8, a calculator is provided as part of the computer testing delivery system, but schools should continue to supply students with exclusive use of the type of hand-held calculator the students use for everyday mathematics instruction.
Are the tools in the Question Sampler and the look the EXACT SAME as it will be when kids take the test? Reason being, two years ago we purchased Edcite to practice for ELA but it was exactly the same and caused more frustration.	Statement from NYSED on their [website here](#) The NYS Nextera sampler can be [found here](#) ***'Closely resembles'???*** The Question Sampler allows users to preview test questions in a platform that closely resembles the secure browser test platform that students will use for the actual test. The Sampler gives users the opportunity to practice using the built-in features like the highlighter, notepad, and answer eliminator, all of which will be available to students taking the computer-based test. NYSED and Questar Assessment Inc. released a new functionality for CBT math Equation Editor called the Equation Editor Drawing Tool. The Drawing Tool allows students to "draw your work" to arrive at and respond creatively to math questions.
Will the administrator guide would stay the same (p. 29 on the 2022 guide) for 2023- ie: kids can have a physical calculator in 2022. Also that kids are only allowed 1 piece of scrap paper and 1 piece of graph paper?!? Answer: taken from the administrator's manual, note that "a supply should be on hand to provide for students who request extra.	**Calculators** Students in Grades 3–5 are **NOT** permitted to use a calculator on the 2023 Mathematics Tests. Students in Grade 6 are **NOT** permitted to use a calculator with Session 1. For Session 2, students should have exclusive **use of a four-function calculator with a square root key or a scientific calculator**. Graphing calculators are **NOT** permitted. Students in Grades 7–8 should have exclusive **use of a scientific calculator** for both Session 1 and Session 2. Graphing calculators are **NOT** permitted. For students testing on computers in Grades 6–8, a calculator is provided as part of the computer testing delivery system, but schools should continue to supply students with exclusive use of the type of hand-held calculator the students use for everyday mathematics instruction. http://www.nysed.gov/common/nysed/files/programs/state-assessment/38-sam-2022.pdf

	Scratch Paper for Computer-Based Testing Schools that will be administering the English Language Arts and Mathematics Tests on the computer should prepare to furnish scratch paper to their students for use when taking the tests. At the start of each test session the proctor should hand out scratch paper to each student testing with CBT. For the Grades 3–8 English Language Arts Tests, each student should be given one sheet of lined paper, such as loose leaf paper. For the Grades 3–8 Mathematics Tests, each student should be given two sheets of scratch paper: one sheet of lined or plain paper and one sheet of graph paper. In addition, for all test sessions the proctor should have a further supply of scratch paper on hand to provide to students who request additional sheets during the test session. Students testing with CBT should also be advised that any work done on this scratch paper will not be counted. The scratch paper distributed to students testing with CBT must be collected at the end of the session, whether used or unused, and securely destroyed by the school.
Why are 6th grade students not allowed to use a calculator for the whole test?	The first part of their test is still assessing their computation skills (the NS standards).
Can we be allowed to use that CBT browser throughout the year and use our own questions where we can see student responses, show them the mistakes they made and how they have to use CBT browser correctly. We only have a few schools who have tried CBT for the Math assessment and scoring them is brutal.....kids don't know how to show their work.	They can use the sampler window to do any question, but the window doesn't "save" any work, so teachers would have to look over their shoulders or have kids snap a pic of their work in order to use it for scoring and feedback. I recommend asking students to take a screenshot to submit it via classroom (or whatever). They're pros at that now. They can also right-click and "print to pdf" if screenshots don't work (i.e. the box doesn't fit on the screen entirely). Submit to teacher via Google classroom. Some of our middle school teachers use the blank sampler for students to submit "bell-ringer" assignments. It is also a good idea for teachers to model the use of the equation editor sampler in front of the class (on a smartboard, etc.) - talk through the process of figuring out which tools to use, etc. Best practice seems to be having students do the work on paper and then figure out how to best show it in the equation editor. It seems like more work at first, but it is similar to writing a rough draft in ELA.
If a student completes all their work on scrap paper for a test question, can a proctor assist students with inputting the student work onto the computer?	Not advisable. Just as with transferring scrap paper to an answer booklet on a paper test. If there is teacher assistance this is getting into the area of IEP accommodations. Paper exams can be provided for students with IEP who need it as an accommodation.
(More for the group and less for SED) Are there any pedagogical resources (presentations, list of strategies) etc that support a positive CBT learning	In January there is a simulation period that allows for practice - there are student log ins, accommodations that can be input, etc... *This is different from the

environment? For example, like having all the students show their work on a blank piece of paper, or even a piece of paper with boxes for each question. Other pedagogical techniques to support engagement, encourage showing work, hinder fatigue and boredom/click happiness etc.	question sampler.
Are they looking for better platforms and ways to present and gather data for the kids as far as test format? <mark>More specifically, will we be looking to make dynamic questions that are more interactive and allow for building and creation?</mark>	Willing to take a look at the format to see if it can mirror ELA - text on one side with the questions on the other side, so it would limit the need to move the work box in order to see the question
Next Gen sample questions will be released online in the Question Sampler, correct? Especially 1 point questions!	Yes, at some point.
Are there any plans for NYSED to expand the ability of schools to use an equation editor practice platform beyond the sampler so that they don't have to purchase a platform like edoctrina? The sampler doesn't support the teacher's ability to score and give feedback to students.	Will bring that back to the OSA. - As a side note, if your district has Read and Write, adding equation is a really inexpensive way to familiarize students with using a Math Type platform.
With the addition of 1-point constructed response questions for Next Gen tests, would there be any possibility that when we move fully to CBT, there would only be those types of CR questions so that the "show your work" issue with the equation editor would be eliminated?	There currently is not a plan to do that. There is talk of developing more "dynamic" questions - once full CBT implementation has happened Dynamic - graphing on an actual graph, filling in a table, for example
How should we deal with equitability issues? For example, is it okay if some students have touch screen computers but not all of them do? What about some districts that have touchscreen and others that don't?	This is just the reality of education. Looking at increasing the testing window to afford schools that are not one-to-one with devices to test smaller groups of students at a time.
With the move to 100% CBT, will there continue to be paper-based assessments for students who have that as an accommodation on their IEPs? If not, what alternative accommodation(s) might be offered for students? For example, what would a scribe accommodation look like in a 100% CBT environment? Is there any discussion of enabling speech-to-text within the Nextera platform?	Yes, if this an accommodation on a student's IEP, then they can continue with paper-based testing
What additional accommodations have districts found useful to specify in student IEPs specific to NYS CBT? For example, specifying a minimum screen size for a computer-based test.	Working on speech to text. Schools should be working with students to manage the student's needs in their district. Some districts have added IEP accommodations just for state testing (ex: answer masking for state test,

	or must use paper for state tests etc.)
Will there be any emphasis made on standards now that there is no indicator in the manual?	
Why doesn't the equation editor recognize commonly used keystroke shortcuts for math—(e.g., The ^ for superscript/exponents or the / key for fractions (⅔))?	Currently, the equation editor provides the superscript/exponents as a fill in option as well as a fill inoption for fractions . Currently, the test delivery system does not support autocorrect, so ifa student types in 1 / 2 the system will not correct to ½. However, students will receive full credit for a 1 /2.
What is the plan for transitioning Regents Exams to CBT (will regents ever be moved to CBT? What is the timeline?)?	It is logical to think that this will happen. Details on when/how is still TBD
What are the best resources to share with teachers to help teach them the platform, so that they may feel confident in teaching their students how to navigate the math CBT? Do many elementary teachers have experience with equation editors?	
Now that some schools have chosen to go CBT, is there any data out there that compares the student results of CBT (grade wise) in comparison to paper versions? Is there a difference? Is there a grade adjustment to normalize those differences (if they exist).	There has not been a big significance between the scores. OSA understands that the drawing tool isn't perfect.
Is there a way to have both calculators available on the 6th grade CBT test? (i.e. have a four function and scientific calculator available on the platform since it says that in the test guide?)	The request to provide both calculators for Grade 6 in the platform is an enhancement that I have shared with the team and will be discussing with NWEA if this is a viable option as we move forward with the implementation of CBT.
Is there a way for students to possibly screenshot/take a picture of their work on paper in the future and upload it onto the CBT site? Since Covid, students are experienced in taking pictures of their work.	This is a creative solution and we have heard similar requests from students. However, currently theplatform does not support this functionality and our communication policy prohibits all students from bringing cell phones and certain other electronic devices, as defined in the School Administrator's manual(SAM) on page 20, into a testing room. This would also impose a security risk and the purpose of the NYSTP test security requirements stated in the SAM beginning on page 6 is to protect the validity of the test results.
Is there a process for finding "typing errors" as opposed to conceptual errors (e.g. not being able to	The test delivery system does not have spell or grammar check software built within its platform.

put in an exponent and they type x2 instead)	However,if a student needs spell check as an accommodation we have provided information on the procedures to follow here: https://cbtsupport.nysed.gov/hc/en-us/articles/360002379531-Does-the-Nextera-Test-Delivery-System-include-Spellchecking-software - As the use of technology for teaching, learning, an assessment becomes more prevalent in New York State schools, and as teachers and leaders continue to make decisions that ensure their students are receiving a quality, 21st Century education, the topic of keyboarding instruction will and must emerge as a focus area. Additionally, a New York Question Sampler is available for educators, students, and parents to preview computer-based testing for answering test questions and using online testing tools: Questar . The Question Sampler offers an opportunity for students to become familiar with the tools and equation editor symbols they will experience during testing.
Is there a plan for CBT with Regents? If so, what is the timeline?	It's logical to think that if kids are going through 3-8 on CBT, that the Regents Exams will be CBT in the future. But there is no timeline for that yet.
What is the state's recommendation for using (or not using) these scores individually for school/district policies (e.g. sorting students for whatever reason), especially when the tech does not allow some skills to be tested?	Results are provided to help teachers, students, and parents better understand where a student is doing well and where they may need additional assistance. NYSED recommends that these assessments be used as one data point for diagnostic purposes. Districts are prohibited from making promotions or placement decisions for students based solely or primarily on the performance on these tests.

*several answers given by Emily Bryans from the NYSED Office of State Assessment during our August Math Statewide meeting
**other answers came from emailing CBT support

Please send your questions about the platform to cbtsupport@nysed.gov - specific to cbt
emscassessinfo@nysed.gov - assessment questions in general