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Office of Standards, Assessment and Reporting

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**TO:** District Superintendents  
School Superintendents  
Principals of Elementary and Intermediate Public, Nonpublic and Charter Schools  
Commissioner's Advisory Council of Nonpublic Schools  
Chairpersons and Supervisors of Mathematics Instructors

**FROM:** David Abrams 

**SUBJECT:** Rulers and Protractors for the Grades 3-8 Mathematics Tests

Some school districts have contacted the Department to inquire whether they may use the rulers and protractors that their students use every day in the classroom or whether they must use those that the Department provided last year for the Grades 3-8 Mathematics Tests. Schools **may** use the mathematics tools used daily in the classroom as long as these do not have pertinent information, such as mathematics formulae, written on them and as long as they meet the specifications listed below. Alternatively, schools may use those rulers and protractors provided by the Department last year. In either case, students should be encouraged to practice with the tools that they will use on the test in advance of the actual test administration. Please note, that as was explained in the January 2008 memorandum, the Department **will not** be providing new rulers and protractors for the 2009 tests.

Rulers will be used with all of the Grades 3-8 Mathematics Tests. Protractors will be used only with the Grades 5 and 7 Mathematics Tests.

Thank you for your ongoing contributions to mathematics education in New York State.

**Grades 3–4 Mathematics Tests—Specifications for Rulers**

- Rulers may be constructed of plastic, wood, metal, cardboard, or other suitable material.
- Rulers must be between 6" and 12" long.
- Rulers must include inch to  $\frac{1}{8}$ " subdivisions; they may include  $\frac{1}{16}$ " subdivisions.
- Rulers must include centimeters.
- Rulers must be calibrated accurately with another ruler that is known to be accurate.

**Grades 5–8 Mathematics Tests—Specifications for Rulers**

- Rulers may be constructed of plastic, wood, metal, cardboard, or other suitable material.
- Rulers must be between 6" and 12" long.
- Rulers must include inch to  $\frac{1}{16}$ " subdivisions.
- Rulers must include centimeters with millimeter subdivisions.
- Rulers must be calibrated accurately with another ruler that is known to be accurate.

**Grades 5 and 7 Mathematics Tests—Specifications for Protractors**

- Protractors must be constructed of clear plastic and measure no shorter than  $3\frac{5}{16}$ " in diameter and no longer than  $4\frac{3}{4}$ " in diameter.
- Protractors must be calibrated accurately with another protractor that is known to be accurate.