

Chairman Phil Mendelson
at the request of the Mayor

A RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To declare the existence of an emergency with respect to the need to amend the Testing Integrity Act of 2013 to allow for the use of computers and cell phones solely during the administration of computer-based Districtwide assessments as outlined in guidance issued by the Office of the State Superintendent of Education; and to clarify that the phrase "the Mayor" includes his or her designated representative in section 107 of the act.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this act may be cited as the "Testing Integrity Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2015".

Sec. 2. (a) During School Year (SY) 2014-2015, the District of Columbia Public Schools and the District's Public Charter Schools are implementing next generation assessments, moving from the D.C. Comprehensive Assessment System (DC CAS) to the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) for English/Language Arts, Composition, and Math, from the DC CAS Science to the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) Assessment, and from the DC CAS Alt to the National Center and State Collaborative (NCSC).

(b) While the previous DC CAS assessments were administered via paper, the vast majority of students will take the next generation assessments on the computer this school year. Specifically, over 90% of the students taking the PARCC assessment will be doing so through

1 computer-based testing, with all students taking PARCC and the other next generation
2 assessments via the computer by SY 2017-2018.

3 (d) PARCC is comprised of two components – a performance based assessment (PBA)
4 and an end of year (EOY) assessment. The PBA is designed to be taken approximately 75%
5 through the academic year, and the EOY is designed to be taken approximately 90% through the
6 academic year.

7 (e) During SY 2014-2015, the testing window for the PBA portion of PARCC begins on
8 March 2, 2015, with seven Local Education Agencies (LEAs) beginning to test on that day.
9 District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS) will begin to test on March 7, 2015, and most
10 District students will complete the PBA portion of the PARCC between March 23, 2015 through
11 April 3, 2015.

12 (f) Under DC Law 20-27, the “Testing Integrity Act of 2013,” authorized personnel,
13 which the Act defines as “an individual who has access to Districtwide assessment materials or is
14 directly involved in the administration of a Districtwide assessment” is prohibited from using
15 cell phones, unapproved electronics, or computer devices during the administration of a
16 Districtwide assessment. Such prohibition effectively prevents the use of computer-based testing
17 in the District, presenting a conflict since the next generation assessments are computer-based.

18 (g) Additionally, DC Law 20-27 prevents the use of cell phones during the administration
19 of a Districtwide assessment. Since many of the computer labs and classrooms being utilized
20 during the administration of PARCC and the other next generation assessments do not have
21 landlines in the room, test administrators, test monitors, or school technology coordinators that
22 may need to contact technology support during the administration of the test will not be able to
23 do so.

1 (h) Under current law, if technological challenges are encountered during the
2 administration of a computer-based test, and no landlines are present in the classroom in which
3 the test is being administered, an individual would not be able to seek technological support
4 without numerous delays that would prevent the efficient, effective, and timely administration of
5 the assessment.

6 (i) Thus, it is imperative that the law be amended to allow for computer-based testing and
7 for cell phone usage during the testing environment, within a strict set of guidelines issued by the
8 Office of the State Superintendent of Education. Given the fact that PARCC administration
9 begins this week, an emergency exists and requires the amendment of DC Law 20-27.

10 Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia determines that the circumstances
11 enumerated in section 2 constitute emergency circumstances making it necessary that the
12 “Testing Integrity Emergency Amendment Act of 2015” be adopted after a single reading.

13 Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.