

Visual Barriers as Part of a Secure Test Environment

Updated 8/28/15

The Rule: *Section 2.2 Security of the Test Environment* of the Test Administration Manual states that one of the requirements of a secure test environment is that, “Students must be seated so there is enough space between them to minimize opportunities to look at each other’s work, or they should be provided with table-top partitions or other visual barriers.”

Promising Practices: Districts must ensure that students do not have access to see other students’ work during testing. ODE considers the following methods as acceptable means of meeting this requirement:

- If there is adequate spacing between students, that is sufficient to meet this requirement.
- If students are testing in close quarters, you can set up physical visual barriers using file folders.
- If the computers in the testing lab have tower-style CPUs located on the desk surface, you can slide the CPU forward on the desk and move the monitor back to use the CPU as a screen.
- You can cut large cardboard box sides to fit the depth of the desk surface and temporarily secure them to the desk to create cubicles.