



BCAMT Position on Access to and Availability of Graphing Calculators:

School districts have a responsibility to make graphing calculators available for classroom and home use free of cost to all students in Applications or Principles of Mathematics 10-12.

Rationale

Using technology can enrich and extend mathematics learning. Calculators and computers enrich learning by providing an efficient, dynamic means of exploring rich problems and reinforcing concepts being taught. Calculators and computers can extend learning into new topic areas that depend on technology as a problem-solving tool, or can extend previous topic areas into new contexts unreachable without technology. The Mathematics 10-12 Integrated Resource Packages state:

Technology contributes to a learning environment in which the growing curiosity of students can lead to rich mathematical discoveries at all grade levels.

Recognizing the importance of technology in mathematics education, the current curriculum for secondary mathematics makes specific reference to the use of graphing calculators in some of the Prescribed Learning Outcomes and/or Achievement Indicators for all Applications and Principles courses from grades 10 to 12. Further, their use and availability is assumed in the delivery of mathematics programs:

It is assumed that all students have regular access to appropriate technology such as graphing calculators, or computers with graphing software and standard spreadsheet programs.

(From the Principles of Mathematics 10-12 Integrated Resource Package 2006, Applications of Mathematics 10-12 Integrated Resource Package 2006, and Essentials of Mathematics 10-12 Integrated Resource Package 2006)

Because utilizing graphing calculators is a mandated part of our curriculum in these courses, students who are not able to or choose not to purchase their own graphing calculator should not be disadvantaged. Essentially, students should be able to borrow a graphing calculator for the duration of a course in much the same manner as they might borrow a textbook or other such resource.