

Test Security

American Educational Research Association, American Psychological Association & National Council on Measurement in Education (1999). *Standards for educational and psychological testing*. Washington, DC: American Educational Research Association.

Standard 5.6: “Reasonable efforts should be made to assure the integrity of test scores by eliminating opportunities for test takers to attain scores by fraudulent means.”

Standard 5.7: “Test users have the responsibility of protecting the security of the test materials at all times.”

American Psychological Association. (1999). Test security: Protecting the integrity of tests. *American Psychologist*, 54(12), 1078.

“The mandate to refrain from disclosing secure test materials in a public forum has caused great difficulty for psychologist in the context of litigation. Often testing psychologists are asked to disclose test materials to lawyers and other individuals who are not ethically or legally obligated to keep these materials confidential. Sometimes these materials will be admitted into evidence as part of the public record. These actions slowly erode the validity and reliability of the instruments as the test items become more widely available to anyone trying to obtain access to them. Accordingly, the best protection for the test is for the psychologist whose test records are subpoenaed, or otherwise requested in a legal proceeding, to ask the court to allow delivery of secure materials only to psychologists or other professionals who are bound by the same duty to protect them. If delivery to nonqualified individuals, such as legal counsel, is mandated, a further way to seek to protect the materials is to request that a protective order be issued prohibiting parties from making copies of the materials, requiring that the materials be returned to the psychologist at the close of litigation, and ordering that the record be sealed if test questions or answers are admitted as part of the public record.” (p. 1078)

California Association of School Psychologists. (1992). *Code of ethics (Rev.)*. Sacramento, CA: Author.

III. Professional Practice - Public Settings

B. Use of Materials and Computers

1. “School psychologists are responsible for maintaining security of psychological tests which might be rendered useless by revealing the specific content or underlying principles. Every attempt is made by school psychologists to protect test security and copyright restrictions” (p. 9).

National Association of School Psychologists. (2000, July 15). *Professional conduct manual*. Bethesda, MD: Author.

Principles for Professional Ethics

Guidelines for the Provision of School Psychological Services

IV. Professional Practices—General Principles

E. Use of Materials and Technology

1. School psychologists maintain test security, preventing the release of underlying principles and specific content that would undermine the use of the device. School psychologists are responsible for the security requirements specific to each instrument used. (p. 30)

Guidelines for the Provision of School Psychological Services

Guidelines for the Organization and Operation of the Unit

Unit Guideline 4: Communication and Technology

- 4.5 “Parents may inspect and review any personally identifiable data relating to their child which were collected, maintained, or used in his/her evaluation. Although test protocols are part of the student’s record, school psychologists protect test security and observed copyright restrictions. **Release of records and protocols is done consistent with state/federal regulations**” (p. 56).

[Text in bold was added as part of the recent July 15, 2000, revision.]