

INVESTIGATIVE REPORT – MARCH 2014
BRIDGETON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
WEST AVENUE SCHOOL
NJ ASK 2010 ERASURE ANALYSIS SECURITY REVIEW

Executive Summary

Subsequent to the release of the New Jersey Department of Education's (NJDOE) 2010 New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge (NJ ASK) Erasure Analysis Report (EA Report), the Acting Commissioner of Education tasked the Office of Fiscal Accountability and Compliance (OFAC) to conduct an investigation into potential irregularities in student answer patterns (at West Avenue School) during the administration of the 2010 NJ ASK.

The irregularities that launched the investigation were the wrong to right (WTR) erasure patterns detected on the tests by Measurement Incorporated (MI), the NJDOE state assessment contractor for the NJ ASK. The NJDOE set a threshold of four standard deviations (SD) above the statewide mean for the WTR erasures before the OFAC was assigned to investigate. The SD is an indication of how far the values in a data set deviate from the mean.

During the investigation, the investigators discovered examiners influenced examinees' responses on the NJ ASK 4 and an irregularity occurred in one of the fourth grade classrooms during testing; however, an irregularity report was not submitted to the district.

As a result of its investigation, the OFAC concluded during the administration of the 2010 NJ ASK 4, test security breaches were committed by 3 staff members.