



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

PO BOX 500

TRENTON, NJ 08625-0500

CHRIS CHRISTIE

Governor

KIM GUADAGNO

Lt. Governor

CHRISTOPHER D. CERF

Commissioner

February 20, 2014

Ms. Cami Anderson, State District Superintendent
Newark Public Schools
2 Cedar Street, Room 1003
Newark, NJ 07102

Dear Ms. Anderson:

SUBJECT: NJ ASK Erasure Analysis Security Review – Roseville Avenue School
OFAC Case #INV-117-12

The Office of Fiscal Accountability and Compliance (OFAC) completed an investigation of the testing procedures utilized at the Roseville Avenue School in the Newark Public Schools. The investigation was initiated in response to findings resulting from the administration of the 2010 New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge Test (NJ ASK).

Following a review of all pertinent information and documentation, a violation of test security protocols was confirmed at the Roseville Avenue School. The information obtained during the OFAC review of these matters is detailed in the attached report. Please provide a copy of the report for each board member.

Utilizing the process outlined in the attached "Procedures for Audit Response, Corrective Action Plan and Appeal Process, State-Operated School Districts," pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.6, the Newark Public Schools Board of Education is required to publicly review and discuss the findings in this report at a public board meeting no later than 30 days after receipt of the report. Within 30 days of the public meeting, the board must adopt a resolution certifying the findings were discussed during a public meeting. The resolution must indicate if the board approved a corrective action plan (CAP) as required by the report recommendation and/or submitted an appeal of any issue in dispute. A copy of the resolution and approved CAP and/or appeal must be sent to this office within 10 days of adoption by the board. Direct your response to my attention.

Also, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.6(c), you must post the findings of the report and the district's CAP on your school district's website. Should you have any questions, please contact Mr. Thomas Martin, Manager, Investigations Unit, at (609) 633-9615.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Cicchino, Director

Office of Fiscal Accountability and Compliance

RJC/S:\Newark\INV-117-12 Roseville Elementary\Report\Letter for EA Analysis Investigative Rpt.docx
Attachment

www.nj.gov/education

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STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY AND COMPLIANCE
INVESTIGATIONS UNIT

NEWARK PUBLIC SCHOOLS
ROSEVILLE AVENUE SCHOOL
NEW JERSEY ASSESSMENT OF SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE
ERASURE ANALYSIS SECURITY REVIEW
OFAC CASE #INV-117-12

INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

FEBRUARY 2014

**NEWARK PUBLIC SCHOOLS
ROSEVILLE 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 Commissioner of Education tasked the Office of Fiscal Accountability and Compliance (OFAC) to conduct an investigation into potential irregularities in student answer patterns 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 (SDs) above the statewide mean for 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.

In the Newark Public Schools (the district), the Roseville Avenue School (Roseville), third grade, was identified as a school wherein an investigation would be conducted.

In September 2011, the OFAC sent a letter directing the district to conduct a comprehensive analysis of the May 2010 NJ ASK testing procedures at Roseville. The district responded with its report dated November 10, 2011. The report disclosed evidence of testing irregularities. At the direction of the OFAC, the district provided additional documentation to support its review.

In May 2013, MI released the 2012 erasure analysis data to the NJDOE Office of Assessments (OA) and the OFAC. The OFAC reviewed this data and determined one examiner in Roseville had unusually high WTR erasure patterns for the fourth grade LAL tests in 2012. As a result of this information the OFAC included the Roseville 2012 test data in this review.

In order to determine the underlying causes of the excessive WTR erasures on the 2010 and 2011 NJ ASK, the OFAC investigators (the investigators) examined the following: the district's supporting documents, 2010 and 2011 test booklets, school security checklists, testing data, and individual Language Arts Literacy (LAL) and Mathematics (MATH) test scores. The investigators conducted interviews of 10 current or former district personnel and three former students.

During the review, the investigators discovered irregularities in the administration of the NJ ASK. In addition, two chief examiners did not attend NJ ASK turnkey training. The remainder of this report consists of a background of events, investigative procedures, investigative summary, document review, data review, interview summaries, a conclusion, recommendations, and a referral to the State Board of Examiners.

BACKGROUND

New Jersey's state-required assessment program was designed to measure the extent to which all students at the elementary, middle, and secondary school levels have mastered the knowledge and skills described in New Jersey's Core Curriculum Content Standards. The statewide assessments for elementary and middle school grades are administered annually as the New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge (NJ ASK) in Language Arts Literacy (LAL) and Mathematics (MATH) for grades three through eight and in Science (SCI) for grades four and eight. Testing is conducted in the spring of each year to allow school staff and students the greatest opportunity to achieve the goal of proficiency.

The New Jersey Department of Education's (NJDOE) Office of Assessments (OA) coordinates the development and implementation of the NJ ASK. Measurement Incorporated (MI), the contractor for NJ ASK, is responsible for all aspects of the testing program which include: receiving, scanning, editing and scoring the answer documents; scoring constructed-response items; and creating, generating, and distributing all score reports of test results to students, schools, districts, and the state.

In 2008, the NJDOE requested information regarding erasure rates on the NJ ASK. Since that time, MI has provided such erasure analyses to the NJDOE. MI scans and scores the NJ ASK exams. Scanners are set to detect erasures. Computer scoring programs capture the evidence of erasures and accumulate the results by school. Erasures fall into one of three types: A change from a wrong to a right answer (WTR); a change from a wrong to another wrong answer (WTW); or a change from a right to a wrong answer (RTW). MI examined the mean WTR erasure rates of all New Jersey schools to identify potential irregularities in response patterns and then compared each school's mean to the statewide mean. Those schools for which the erasure rate exceeded the NJDOE defined threshold of two standard deviations (2 SDs) above the statewide mean were flagged and their WTR erasure rates were noted in the NJ ASK Erasure Analysis Reports (EA Reports). The OA assumed responsibility for investigating those schools that had WTR erasure rates exceeding four standard deviations (4 SDs) above the statewide mean and set the criteria by which further investigation would be warranted by the OFAC.

Roseville Avenue School (Roseville) was one of the schools flagged in the 2010 NJ ASK EA Report for the third grade test administration. In May 2012, MI released the 2011 NJ ASK EA Report. The OA reviewed the data and determined Roseville had unusually high WTR erasure patterns again for third grade LAL and MATH in 2011. In addition, the 2011 NJ ASK EA Report flagged the fourth grade at Roseville with a high WTR erasure rate. Furthermore, a review of the 2012 erasure analysis data by the OFAC indicated unusually high WTR erasure patterns for a fourth grade class; therefore, the OFAC made a determination the fourth grade results for 2011 and 2012 would be reviewed as well.

INVESTIGATIVE PROCEDURES¹

Review of District Analysis of the May 2010 NJ ASK Testing Procedures: Investigators reviewed the district's analysis report which included, but was not limited to: (1) a description of test administration training and personnel that received training; (2) a description of who handled the test material in any way but did *not* receive test administration training; (3) a description of how the test materials were distributed and collected; (4) who had access to secure test materials before and after testing during each day the test documents were kept in the school; and (5) a review of any irregularities found during the administration of the test.

Examiner/Proctors Training Sessions: Investigators interviewed the School Test Coordinator (STC), test examiners, and test proctors to determine whether: (1) all school examiners and proctors attended a training session conducted at the testing site by the STC; (2) a copy of the examiner's responsibilities and one Test Examiner Manual was distributed to each examiner; and (3) all school examiners and proctors signed the NJDOE Statewide Assessments Test Security Agreement (TSA).

Test Booklet Distribution and Security: Investigators interviewed the STC, test examiners, and test proctors to determine: (1) whether test materials were stored in a secure and locked location that was accessible only to individuals whose access was authorized by the STC when not being used during a test period; (2) whether test examiners verified the quantity and security numbers for the test booklets he/she received; and (3) whose signatures appeared on the School Security Checklist acknowledging receipt of test materials.

Test Booklet Collection: Investigators interviewed the STC, test examiners, and test proctors to determine: (1) who collected the test booklets; (2) when the booklets were collected; (3) where test booklets were located during any breaks; and (4) how the test booklets were returned to the test collection site.

Examination of School Security Checklists: Investigators examined the School Security Checklists to determine whether: (1) examiners properly signed for each test booklet they received; (2) the times and dates associated with the signatures corresponded with the test schedule time frames; and (3) the STC signed for the return of test materials and included the date and time returned.

Testing Process: Test examiners, proctors, and students were interviewed to determine whether: (1) the examiners were the only individuals involved in distributing and collecting test booklets and answer sheets from students; (2) examiners and proctors circulated throughout the room during testing to ensure all students were working in the correct section by observing the correct symbol in the right corner of the test booklet and/or answer folder; (3) all curriculum materials pertaining to the subject matter were covered or removed from the room; (4) students were seated in such a way that they were not tempted to look at the answers of others; (5) test items were not discussed or disclosed either before, during, or after the testing administration; (6) examiners did not influence, alter, or interfere with examinees' responses in any way; (7) examiners did not provide feedback, including any hint about the correctness of a response; and (8) there was adherence to test time limits.

¹ The Security Procedures listed on page 13 of the Test Coordinator's Manual served as a guideline for the Investigative Procedures.

Testing Irregularities: Each person interviewed was asked if any testing irregularities involving test booklets, answer folders, or anything that could impact the scoring of the test booklet/answer folder occurred during the administration of the test and if so, whether an irregularity report was filed.

Test Booklet/Answer Sheet Analysis: Students' multiple choice answers for the LAL and MATH tests and open ended responses were examined to determine whether any form of feedback or intervention, including any hint about the correctness of a response, was provided to any student.

Erasure Analysis Report Review: The results from the 2010 and 2011 NJ ASK EA Report, received from MI, were reviewed to assist in determining the underlying causes of the excessive erasures.

Erasure Analysis Data Review: The investigators reviewed and analyzed erasure analysis data received from MI, from the 2012 NJ ASK testing cycle in order to assist in determining the underlying cause of the excessive erasures.

Historical and Mapped Testing Data: The investigators reviewed and analyzed students' historical testing data and the erasure patterns within a grade for each subject in order to determine the underlying causes of the excessive WTR erasures.

INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY

Beginning in February 2013, the OFAC investigators (the investigators) reviewed the district analysis of the May 2010 administration of the NJ ASK at Roseville, the 2010 and 2011 testing documents, the 2010 and 2011 NJ ASK EA Reports, the 2010, 2011, and 2012 testing data, and the 2010 tests.

Subsequent to the review of the district analysis, the documentation, and erasure data, the investigators began interviewing students and district personnel regarding their participation in the test administration of the 2010, 2011, and 2012 NJ ASK.

The review of the erasure analysis data from 2010, 2011, and 2012, in conjunction with the historical testing data for each student, revealed six NJ ASK examiners in Roseville had extreme occurrences of WTR erasures in excess of the NJDOE defined threshold of 4 SDs above the statewide mean. The examiners were; Noelle Orsini, Sharon DeVito, Patricia Marinaro, Leonard Luciano, Socorro Figueiras, and Melissa Milara-Ramirez.

The investigators determined, through witness interviews and analysis of NJ ASK testing procedures and documentation, that Ms. Rose Serra, Principal and STC, failed to provide the mandatory training to the staff who administered or handled the 2010 and 2011 NJ ASK. In addition, Ms. Serra did not properly complete the School Security Checklists during the 2010 and 2011 NJ ASK, and did not properly complete the Make-Up Test Administration School Security Checklists (Make-Up Security Checklists) provided for testing during the 2010 and 2011 NJ ASK. Therefore the investigators determined Ms. Serra breached the security procedures of the 2010 and 2011 NJ ASK.

Following is a detailed account of all the information utilized by the investigators during the course of the NJ ASK Erasure Analysis Security Review of Roseville.

DOCUMENT REVIEW

The investigators reviewed relevant documentation to ensure the process of securing all test materials was followed, including the district's analysis of the May 2010 NJ ASK testing procedures, the training agenda and sign in sheets for 2010 and 2011, the 2010 and 2011 School Security Checklists, and the Make-Up Checklists.

2010 Test Administration Training

The investigators' review of the district's analysis revealed there were discrepancies in the NJ ASK test security training.

The district noted in its analysis that the custodian had keys to the closet which contained secured NJ ASK test materials and the employee was not listed on the NJ ASK test security training sign-in sheet.

The district's analysis also stated Mr. Douglas Edelstein, a special education teacher who was assigned as a chief examiner, was noted as absent on the training sign-in sheet. In the district's report Ms. Rose Serra indicated she held a make-up session with Mr. Edelstein, during a one-on-one meeting after May 6, 2010,

where she reviewed the training materials. Based upon the investigators' interview with Mr. Edelstein, it was determined he was not available for a one-on-one meeting; he was on approved leave beginning May 4, 2010, and did not return to school until after the completion of the NJ ASK.

In addition to the district analysis, the investigators noted the absence of Ms. Marinaro's name on the May 6, 2010 Training Attendance Sheet. During an interview, Ms. Marinaro stated she was unexpectedly pulled from her art class to serve as an examiner for a student on three of the four testing days. When questioned as to whether she attended turnkey training, she stated she believed she received training. Based upon the absence of Ms. Marinaro's name and signature on the May 6, 2010 Training Attendance Sheet, her statements regarding the unexpected assignment as a chief examiner, and the absence of a signed TSA, the investigators could not confirm whether Ms. Marinaro attended the required training.

2011 Test Administration Training

The investigators reviewed the May 2, 2011 Training Attendance Sheet for Roseville staff members. The investigators noted the absence of Mr. Ramon Fuentes' signature on the Training Attendance Sheet. Based upon records maintained by the district and a witness statement, Mr. Fuentes served as a chief examiner for the 2011 NJ ASK. Due to the absence of Mr. Fuentes' signature on the May 2, 2011 Training Attendance Sheet, and the absence of a signed TSA, the investigators could not confirm whether Mr. Fuentes attended the required training.

2010 School Security Checklists

The investigators examined the School Security Checklists to determine whether the examiners and the STC followed the proper security procedures for the distribution and collection of the secure test materials. The examination revealed on the 2010 Grade 3 LAL Day 2 School Security Checklist the return time was omitted for 17 test booklets signed out by Ms. DeVito and 15 test booklets signed out by Ms. Orsini.

2010 School Security Checklists for Make-Up Tests

The investigators examined the Make-Up Test Administration School Security Checklist to determine whether the STC followed the proper procedures for the distribution and collection of secure test materials for make-up tests. The examination revealed the STC documented the make-up tests on the Grade 3 Day 1 and 2 LAL School Security Checklists rather than on the Make-Up Test Administration School Security Checklist.

2011 School Security Checklists

The investigators examined the School Security Checklists to determine whether the examiners and the STC followed the proper security procedures for the distribution and collection of the secure test materials. The examination revealed on the 2011 Grade 3 LAL Day 1 School Security Checklist the return date, time, and the STC's signature were omitted for 14 test booklets signed out by Ms. Orsini.

DATA REVIEW AND INTERVIEWS

The investigators reviewed Roseville's 2010, 2011, and 2012 WTR erasure data in comparison to the statewide results, as well as data from previous and subsequent testing cycles (historical data), and conducted interviews of 10 current or former district personnel and three former students, in order to assist in determining the underlying causes of the excessive erasures.²

2010 and 2011 Review of WTR testing data

Roseville's third grade students' 2010 WTR erasure data in comparison to the statewide results:

- At Roseville, 37 third grade students participated in the 2010 NJ ASK 3.
- At the school level, the WTR mean erasure rate was **9.24**, with a total of **342 WTR** erasures, which equated to **more than 10 SDs** above the statewide mean.
- The third grade LAL WTR mean erasure rate was **2.65**, with a total of **98 WTR** erasures, which equated to **8 SDs** above the statewide mean.
- The third grade MATH WTR mean erasure rate was **6.59**, with a total of **244 WTR** erasures, which equated to **more than 9 SD's** above the state mean.

Roseville's third and fourth grade students' 2011 WTR erasure data in comparison to the statewide results:

- At Roseville, 35 third grade students participated in the 2011 NJ ASK 3.
- School level erasure rates were not calculated by MI for the 2011 NJ ASK.
- The third grade LAL WTR mean erasure rate was **2.09**, with a total of **73 WTR** erasures, which equated to **more than 4 SDs** above the statewide mean.
- The third grade MATH WTR mean erasure rate was **3.97**, with a total of **139 WTR** erasures, which equated to **more than 6 SDs** above the statewide mean.
- At Roseville, 30 fourth grade students participated in the 2011 NJ ASK 4.
- The fourth grade LAL WTR erasure rate was **2.7**, with a total of **81 WTR** erasures, which equated to **more than 4 SDs** above the state mean.
- The fourth grade MATH WTR erasure rate was **3.97**, with a total of **119 WTR** erasures, which equated to **more than 6 SDs** above the state mean.

2010, 2011, and 2012 Review of Historical Data

The investigators discovered tests administrated by six NJ ASK examiners in Roseville had extreme occurrences of WTR erasures in excess of the NJDOE defined threshold of 4 SDs above the statewide mean. Four of the examiners administered the NJ ASK 3 in 2010 and two examiners administered the NJ ASK 4 in 2011. One of the examiners from 2010 had extreme WTR erasure rates again on the 2011 NJ ASK 3 on both the LAL and MATH portions of the test. One of the examiners from 2011 had extreme WTR erasure

² The 2010 EA Report data was associated with the sending school and the 2011 EA Report data was associated with the receiving school. This changed in 2011 because, while the sending school is where the student is registered, the receiving school is where the student took the test; if any systematic erasures occurred, they should be associated with the school administering the test. Consequently, the number of students reported in the 2010 report may not match the number of students identified with a particular chief examiner in this review.

rates again on the 2012 NJ ASK 4 on the LAL portion of the test. These six examiners were identified as follows:

1. Noelle Orsini, the school literacy coach, for both 2010 and 2011 testing, third grade
2. Sharon DeVito, third grade teacher, for 2010 testing
3. Patricia Marinaro, the school art teacher, for 2010 testing
4. Leonard Luciano, the school library media specialist, for 2010 testing
5. Socorro Figueiras, fourth grade teacher, for 2011 and 2012 testing
6. Melissa Milara-Ramirez, fourth grade teacher, for 2011 testing

Noelle Orsini – Data Review

The investigators reviewed the 2010 WTR erasure data from MI for the students who were administered the NJ ASK 3 by Ms. Orsini in an effort to assist in determining the underlying causes of the excessive erasures and found the following:

- During the 2010 NJ ASK 3, Ms. Orsini tested 14 students for the LAL and MATH portions of the test. Nine of 14 students (**64.29%**) had three or more WTR erasures on the LAL portion of the test. Statewide, **2.74%** of the students tested had three or more WTR erasures on the LAL portion of the test for the third grade. According to MI, the probability of nine of 14 students having three or more WTR erasures on the LAL portion of the test is **less than one out of ten billion**.
- Eleven of the 14 students (**78.57%**) had three or more WTR erasures on the MATH portion of the test. Statewide, **13.87%** of the students tested had three or more WTR erasures on the MATH portion of the test for the third grade. According to MI, the probability of 11 of 14 students having three or more WTR erasures on the MATH portion of the test is **less than one out of ten million**.
- The third grade 2010 NJ ASK 3 LAL had 18 multiple choice (MC) questions and the 2010 NJ ASK 3 MATH had 35 MC questions.
 - A WTR erasure rate of **1.53** for the LAL test is **4 SDs** above the statewide mean; the students tested by Ms. Orsini had a WTR erasure rate of **4.00** for LAL, which equated to **more than 12 SDs** above the statewide mean.
 - A WTR erasure rate of **3.52** for the MATH test is **4 SDs** above the statewide mean; the students tested by Ms. Orsini had a WTR erasure rate of **10.43** for MATH, which equated to **more than 15 SDs** above the statewide mean.
- Statewide, **56.15%** of the erasures on the LAL portion of the test were WTR erasures for third grade and **66.99%** of the erasures on the MATH portion of the test were WTR erasures for the third grade. In Ms. Orsini's class, **83.58%** of the erasures (56 of 67) on the LAL portion of the test were WTR erasures and **93.58%** of the erasures (146 of 156) on the MATH portion of the test were WTR erasures.
- Six students who were administered the 2010 NJ ASK 3 by Ms. Orsini took the 2011 NJ ASK 4 in schools other than Roseville. The LAL WTR erasure rate for these students dropped from **3.50**

WTR in 2010 when tested with Ms. Orsini (**11 SD above the statewide mean**) to 1 WTR in 2011 when no longer tested at Roseville (**less than 1 SD above the statewide mean**). The MATH WTR erasure rate for these students also dropped significantly from **9.67 WTR** in 2010 when tested by Ms. Orsini (**14 SDs above the statewide mean**) to **0.66 WTR** in 2011 when no longer tested at Roseville (**1 SD below the statewide mean**).

Table A details a comparison of the scores and WTR erasures of the students who were administered the test by Ms. Orsini in 2010 with those same students' scores and WTR erasures when tested at another school in 2011:

TABLE A								
STUDENT	MATH				LAL			
	SCORE 2010 Orsini	SCORE 2011 Other	WTR 2010 Orsini	WTR 2011 Other	SCORE 2010 Orsini	SCORE 2011 Other	WTR 2010 Orsini	WTR 2011 Other
1	179	175	1	2	189	178	1	0
2	221	150	19	0	214	142	5	0
3	230	159	14	0	203	172	5	1
4	241	195	16	1	214	182	4	0
5	121	205	1	0	200	163	5	5
6	238	221	7	1	227	205	1	0
AVERAGE	205	184	9.67	0.66	207	173	3.50	1

The investigators reviewed the 2011 WTR erasure data from MI for the students who were administered the NJ ASK 3 by Ms. Orsini in an effort to assist in determining the underlying causes of the excessive erasures and found the following:

- During the 2011 NJ ASK 3, Ms. Orsini tested 15 students for the LAL and MATH portions of the test. Nine of the 15 students (**60.0%**) had three or more WTR erasures on the LAL portion of the test. Statewide, **3.12%** of the students tested had three or more WTR erasures on the LAL portion of the test for the third grade. According to MI, the probability of nine out of 15 students having three or more WTR erasures on the LAL portion of the test is **less than one out of one billion**.
- Thirteen of the 15 students (**86.67%**) had three or more WTR erasures on the MATH portion of the test. Statewide, **13.22%** of the students tested had three or more WTR erasures on the MATH portion of the test for the third grade. According to MI, the probability of 13 out of 15 students having three or more WTR erasures on the MATH portion of the test is **less than one out of one billion**.
- The third grade 2011 NJ ASK 3 LAL had 18 MC questions and the 2011 NJ ASK 3 MATH had 35 MC questions.
 - A WTR erasure rate of **1.82** for the LAL test is **4 SDs** above the statewide mean; the students tested by Ms. Orsini had a WTR erasure rate of **3.67** for LAL, which equated to **more than 9 SDs** above the statewide mean.

- A WTR erasure rate of **3.61** for the MATH test is **4 SDs** above the statewide mean; the students tested by Ms. Orsini had a WTR erasure rate of **5.07** for MATH, which equated to **more than 6 SDs** above the statewide mean.
- Statewide, **58.80%** of the erasures on the LAL portion of the test were WTR erasures for the third grade and **64.43%** of the erasures on the MATH portion of the test were WTR erasures for the third grade. In Ms. Orsini's class, **90.16%** of the erasures (55 of 61) on the LAL portion of the test were WTR erasures and **76.77%** of the erasures (76 of 99) on the MATH portion of the test were WTR erasures.

Noelle Orsini – Interview

Ms. Orsini was not interviewed for this review due to her resignation from the district and relocation to Los Angeles, California. The investigators performed internet searches to locate Ms. Orsini and discovered she is no longer affiliated with her last known place of employment, the Kelter Center in Los Angeles. The White Pages provided a telephone number with a New Jersey based area code and a message was left for Ms. Orsini to contact the DOE; however, she did not respond to this request.

The investigators learned through interviews with other staff members at Roseville, during the 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 school years, Ms. Orsini was assigned to Roseville as a Literacy Coach. Ms. Orsini was selected as a chief examiner for the 2010 NJ ASK 3, in place of a long-term substitute teacher who was in charge of the class, and as an examiner for the 2011 NJ ASK 3. The investigators confirmed her signature was on the May 6, 2010 Training Attendance Sheet and on the May 2, 2011 NJ ASK 3 and 4 Training Attendance Sheet. TSAs for 2010 and 2011 were not forwarded to the OFAC by the district for further verification of NJ ASK training.

The investigators reviewed the 2010 and 2011 School Security Checklists in order to assist in determining the amount of time Ms. Orsini was in possession of the secure test materials each day of the test. On the 2010 LAL Day 2 School Security Checklist, the return time was not recorded for the 15 test booklets signed out by Ms. Orsini. The omission of this information prevents the investigators from determining if Ms. Orsini was in possession of the test materials for longer than the allotted time.

On the 2011 LAL Day 1 School Security Checklists, the return time, date, and STC signature were not recorded on 14 of the 16 test booklets signed out by Ms. Orsini. The last two test booklets had the STC's signature along with a return date and time. These two test booklets are listed on the subsequent page from the first 14 of the School Security Checklist. The omission of this information prevents the investigators from determining if Ms. Orsini was in possession of the 14 test booklets for longer than the allotted time.

One witness provided information regarding Ms. Orsini's involvement in additional aspects of NJ ASK testing other than serving as an examiner. A former Roseville staff member told the investigators Ms. Orsini assisted Ms. Serra, the STC, when NJ ASK tests arrived from the district offices. The witness stated Ms. Orsini may have been involved in affixing labels to the tests booklets and answer sheets, and the witness was under the impression Ms. Orsini may have been involved in other pre-test activities, based upon Ms. Orsini attending several meetings prior to the testing.

A student witness who was administered the 2010 NJ ASK 3 by Ms. Orsini was interviewed as part of this review. According to information obtained from MI, this student had 14 WTR erasures out of 14 total erasures for the MATH portion of the test and 8 WTR erasures out of 11 total erasures for the LAL portion of the test. At the beginning of the interview, this student was unable to recall information pertaining to the 2010 NJ ASK 3 test administration, which included who served as the examiner and proctor for the test. The student was only able to identify Ms. Orsini as the examiner for the test after the student was shown a photograph of Ms. Orsini. The student did not recall specifically erasing many times on the 2010 NJ ASK 3; however, the student confirmed erasing often on tests, in general, due to making many mistakes. The student stated assistance was not given when taking the test with Ms. Orsini.

Sharon DeVito – Data Review

The investigators reviewed the 2010 WTR erasure data from MI for the students who were administered the NJ ASK 3 by Ms. DeVito in an effort to assist in determining the underlying causes of the excessive erasures and found the following:

- During the 2010 NJ ASK 3, Ms. DeVito tested 17 students for the LAL and MATH portions of the test. Twelve of the 17 students (**70.59%**) had three or more WTR erasures on the MATH portion of the test. Statewide, **13.87%** of the students tested had three or more WTR erasures on the MATH portion of the test for third grade. According to MI, the probability of 12 out of 17 students having three or more WTR erasures on the MATH portion of the test is **less than one out of one million**.
- The third grade 2010 NJ ASK 3 LAL had 18 MC questions and the 2010 NJ ASK 3 MATH had 35 MC questions.
 - A WTR erasure rate of **1.53** for the LAL test is **4 SDs** above the statewide mean; the students tested by Ms. DeVito had a WTR erasure rate of **2.01** for LAL, which equated to **more than 6 SDs** above the statewide mean.
 - A WTR erasure rate of **3.52** for the MATH test is **4 SDs** above the statewide mean; the students tested by Ms. DeVito had a WTR erasure rate of **4.22** for MATH, which equated to **more than 5 SDs** above the statewide mean.
- Statewide, **56.15%** of the erasures on the LAL portion of the test were WTR erasures for the third grade and **66.99%** of the erasures on the MATH portion of the test were WTR erasures for the third grade. In Ms. DeVito's class, **90.24%** of the erasures (37 of 41) on the LAL portion of the test were WTR erasures and **93.75%** of the erasures (75 of 80) on the MATH portion of the test were WTR erasures.
- Six students who were administered the 2010 NJ ASK 3 by Ms. DeVito took the 2011 NJ ASK 4 in schools other than Roseville. The MATH WTR erasure rate for these students dropped from **3.83 WTR** in 2010 when tested with Ms. DeVito (**more than 4 SDs above the statewide mean**) to an average WTR erasure rate of **0.33 WTR** in 2011 when no longer tested at Roseville (**more than 1 SD below the statewide mean**).

Table B details a comparison of the MATH scores and WTR erasures of the students who were administered the test by Ms. DeVito in 2010 with the same MATH scores and WTR erasures of these students when administered the tests at another school in 2011:

TABLE B				
STUDENT	MATH			
	SCORE 2010 DeVito	SCORE 2011 Other	WTR 2010 DeVito	WTR 2011 Other
1	270	255	7	1
2	214	167	7	1
3	254	250	3	0
4	300	278	3	0
5	250	231	3	0
6	160	155	0	0
AVERAGE	241	227	3.83	.33

Sharon DeVito – Interview

Ms. DeVito was interviewed on February 20, 2013. Ms. DeVito taught third grade at Roseville for five years and retired from the district in 2011 after 25 years of service. She served as an examiner to her third grade class for the 2010 NJ ASK 3 test administration. Ms. DeVito acknowledged she received training in NJ ASK test procedures and attended a training session given by Ms. Serra, the STC. The investigators confirmed her signature was on the May 6, 2010 Training Attendance Sheet; however, a TSA was not forwarded to the OFAC by the district for further verification of training.

The investigators reviewed the 2010 School Security Checklists in order to assist in determining the amount of time Ms. DeVito was in possession of the secure test materials each day of the test. On the 2010 LAL DAY 2 School Security Checklist, the return time was not recorded for the 17 tests signed out by Ms. DeVito. During her interview, Ms. DeVito stated she did not recall having the test materials for longer than the allotted time. She added it was the responsibility of the STC to insert a return time of the test on the checklist. The omission of this information prevents the investigators from determining if Ms. DeVito was in possession of the test materials for longer than the allotted time.

Ms. DeVito stated the test was administered in compliance with all required procedures. There were not any student disruptions or security breaches. Documentation provided by the district identified Rosemarie Carella as Ms. DeVito's proctor for the 2010 NJ ASK 3 test administration. Ms. DeVito could not recall with any certainty whether her proctor was Ms. Carella. Ms. DeVito stated neither she nor her assigned proctor assisted students by providing answers, nor did they engage in any activity that would compromise the integrity of the testing process. Ms. DeVito stated she did not have any personal knowledge of security breaches occurring during the 2010 NJ ASK 3 test administration.

Patricia Marinaro – Data Review

The investigators reviewed the 2010 WTR erasure data from MI for one student who was administered the NJ ASK 3 by Ms. Marinaro in an effort to assist in determining the underlying causes of the excessive erasures and found the following:

- The third grade 2010 NJ ASK 3 MATH had 35 MC questions.
 - A WTR erasure rate of **3.52** for the MATH test is **4 SDs** above the statewide mean; the student tested by Ms. Marinaro had **17 WTR** erasures for MATH, which equated to **more than 27 SDs** above the statewide mean.
- Five students in the state who took the NJ ASK 3 MATH had **17 WTR** erasures. One of those five was the student who was tested by Ms. Marinaro. This student received a **230 MATH** scaled score with **17 WTR** erasures and a **176 LAL** scaled score with **0 WTR** erasures.

Patricia Marinaro – Interview

Ms. Marinaro was interviewed on February 21, 2013. She advised the investigators she has been the art teacher at Roseville for six years. Ms. Marinaro stated she believes she attended NJ ASK test administration training and may have received one-on-one training; however, the investigators did not locate her signature on the May 6, 2010 Training Attendance Sheet. TSAs were not provided for the 2010 NJ ASK test administration to verify Ms. Marinaro received the required training. Ms. Marinaro revealed to the investigators she was unexpectedly removed from her art class during the administration of the 2010 NJ ASK to serve as an examiner for 1 third grade student, for three of the four testing days. Ms. Marinaro's signature was on Day 2 of the LAL School Security Checklist and on Days 1 and 2 of the MATH School Security Checklists, confirming what Ms. Marinaro told investigators. Ms. Marinaro stated she did not recall the student erasing many times on the NJ ASK. Ms. Marinaro volunteered erasing is a "pet peeve" of hers as an art teacher. In response to this statement, the investigators asked if she had observed the student erasing many answers on the NJ ASK, would the student's actions stand out in Ms. Marinaro's memory, as erasing is her "pet peeve." Ms. Marinaro stated it probably would have; however, she cannot state with any certainty whether she observed the student erasing many answers. Ms. Marinaro stated the student did not cause any disruptions, there were not any security breaches, she did not assist the student by providing answers, and she did not engage in any activity that would compromise the integrity of the testing process. Ms. Marinaro stated she did not have personal knowledge of security breaches occurring during the 2010 NJ ASK test administration.

Leonard Luciano – Data Review

The investigators reviewed the 2010 WTR erasure data from MI for the students who were administered the NJ ASK 3 by Mr. Luciano in an effort to assist in determining the underlying causes of the excessive erasures and found the following:

- The third grade 2010 NJ ASK 3 LAL had 18 MC questions.
 - A WTR erasure rate of **1.53** for the LAL test is **4 SDs** above the statewide mean. The students tested by Mr. Luciano had a WTR erasure rate of **1.67** which equated to **more than 4 SDs** above the statewide mean.

- Statewide **56.15%** of the erasures on the LAL portion of the test were WTR erasures for the third grade. In Mr. Luciano's class **83.33%** of the erasures (5 of 6) on the LAL portion of the test were WTR erasures.

Leonard Luciano – Interview

Mr. Luciano was interviewed on February 21, 2013. He advised the investigators he has been the Library Media Specialist at Roseville for six years. Mr. Luciano stated he received training in the administration of the NJ ASK and the investigators confirmed his signature on the May 6, 2010 Training Attendance Sheet; however, a TSA was not forwarded to the OFAC by the district for further verification of NJ ASK training. During the course of the interview, Mr. Luciano stated he served as an examiner for three classified Special Education students during the 2010 NJ ASK 3 test administration. He did not regularly teach those students and was not aware of their academic abilities. Mr. Luciano stated there were not any student disruptions or security breaches, he did not assist students by providing answers, and he did not engage in any activity which would compromise the integrity of the testing process. Mr. Luciano did state he heard rumors in general about schools in Newark's North District scoring better on standardized tests through "questionable practices;" however, he did not have any information to substantiate those rumors. Mr. Luciano did not provide any information pertaining to security breaches or procedural irregularities occurring at Roseville during NJ ASK 3 test administration.

Socorro Figueiras – Data Review

The investigators reviewed the 2011 WTR erasure data from MI for the students who were administered the NJ ASK 4 by Ms. Figueiras in an effort to assist in determining the underlying causes of the excessive erasures and found the following:

- During the 2011 NJ ASK 4, Ms. Figueiras tested 14 students for the LAL and MATH portions of the test. Eight of the 14 students (**57.14%**) had three or more WTR erasures on the LAL portion of the test. Statewide, **6.11%** of the students tested had three or more WTR erasures on the LAL portion of the test for the fourth grade. According to MI, the probability of eight out of 14 students having three or more WTR erasures on the LAL portion of the test is **less than one out of one million**.
- Nine of the 14 students (**64.29%**) had three or more WTR erasures on the MATH portion of the test. Statewide, **10.93%** of the students tested had three or more WTR erasures on the MATH portion of the test for the fourth grade. According to MI, the probability of nine out of 14 students having three or more WTR erasures on the MATH portion of the test is **less than one out of one-hundred thousand**.
- The fourth grade 2011 NJ ASK 4 LAL had 24 MC questions and the 2011 NJ ASK 4 MATH had 35 MC questions.
 - A WTR erasure rate of **2.50** for the LAL is **4 SDs** above the statewide mean; the students tested by Ms. Figueiras had a WTR erasure rate of **3.21** for LAL, which equated to **more than 5 SDs** above the statewide mean.

- A WTR erasure rate of **2.77** for the MATH is **4 SDs** above the statewide mean; the students tested by Ms. Figueiras had a WTR erasure rate of **5.29** for MATH, which equated to **more than 9 SDs** above the statewide mean.
- Statewide, **61.81%** of the erasures on the LAL portion of the test were WTR erasures for the fourth grade and **63.17%** of the erasures on the MATH portion of the test were WTR erasures for the fourth grade. In Ms. Figueiras' class, **91.83%** of the erasures (45 of 49) on the LAL portion of the test were WTR erasures and **83.14%** of the erasures (74 of 89) on the MATH portion of the test were WTR erasures.

In the spring of 2013, MI released the 2012 erasure data to the OFAC. The OFAC reviewed the data, and although the fourth grade was flagged at 3 SDs for the LAL portion of the 2012 NJ ASK 4, Ms. Figueiras' class was flagged at **8 SDs** above the statewide mean.

The investigators reviewed the 2012 WTR erasure data from MI for the students who were administered the NJ ASK 4 by Ms. Figueiras in an effort to assist in determining the underlying causes of the excessive erasures and found the following:

- During the 2012 NJ ASK 4, Ms. Figueiras tested 15 students for the LAL portion of the test. Seven of the 15 students (**46.67%**) had three or more WTR erasures on the LAL portion of the test. Statewide, **2.95%** of the students tested had three or more WTR erasures on the LAL portion of the test for the fourth grade. According to MI, in a class of 15 students, less than one student would be expected to have three or more WTR erasures. Furthermore, MI reported the probability of seven out of 15 students having three or more WTR erasures on the LAL portion of the test is **approximately one in ten million**.
- The fourth grade 2012 NJ ASK 4 LAL had 24 MC questions.
 - A WTR erasure rate of **1.41** for the LAL test is **4 SDs** above the statewide mean; the students tested by Ms. Figueiras had a WTR erasure rate of **2.60** for LAL, which equated to **more than 8 SDs** above the statewide mean.
- The total number of WTR erasures for all fourth grade students at Roseville, for the 2012 NJ ASK 4 LAL, was 42. The 15 students tested by Ms. Figueiras had a total of 39 WTR erasures.
 - One student had 7 WTR erasures on the 2012 NJ ASK 4 LAL.
 - One student had 6 WTR erasures on the 2012 NJ ASK 4 LAL.
 - Two students had 4 WTR erasures on the 2012 NJ ASK 4 LAL.
- At Roseville, 31 fourth grade students participated in the 2012 NJ ASK 4. Sixteen of those students were administered the test by examiners other than Ms. Figueiras. MI provided the following data pertaining to those students:
 - **None** of the 16 students had three or more WTR erasures on the 2012 NJ ASK 4 LAL test.

- The 16 students who did not test with Ms. Figueiras had an average WTR erasure rate of **0.19** per student on the 2012 NJ ASK 4 LAL.
- The **16 students** who did not test with Ms. Figueiras had a **total of 3 erasures** on the 2012 NJ ASK 4 LAL.

Socorro Figueiras – Interview

Ms. Figueiras was interviewed on March 13, 2013. Ms. Figueiras stated she was assigned as a fourth grade teacher at Roseville during the 2010-2011 school year and is currently serving in the same position. Ms. Figueiras informed the investigators she received training in test administration prior to the testing process and served as an examiner for the 2011 NJ ASK 4. The investigators confirmed Ms. Figueiras' signature on the May 2, 2011 Training Attendance Sheet; however, a TSA was not forwarded to the OFAC by the district for further verification of training. Prior to being shown the WTR statistical information for her class, Ms. Figueiras was asked to evaluate her students and provide her opinion as to whether she believed these students would review their tests and make erasures or changes. Ms. Figueiras answered she did not recall observing students erasing; however, she believed students do erase a lot. Ms. Figueiras stated there were not any student disruptions or security breaches, she did not assist students by providing answers, and she did not engage in any activity which would compromise the integrity of the testing process.

On June 27, 2013, Ms. Figueiras was interviewed for a second time to discuss the 2012 test administration. During the interview, Ms. Figueiras stated neither she nor her proctor, Dr. Elizabeth Achebe, the social worker at Roseville, assisted students by providing answers and they did not engage in any activity which would compromise the integrity of the testing process. Ms. Figueiras did provide a possible explanation for her students' high number of erasures on the standardized tests by stating she constantly stresses the need to review the tests and make corrections when the student feels it is appropriate. She also stated students were instructed to utilize a process of elimination in an attempt to identify the correct answer.

Melissa Milara-Ramirez – Data Review

The investigators reviewed the 2011 WTR erasure data from MI for the students who were administered the NJ ASK 4 by Ms. Milara-Ramirez in an effort to assist in determining the underlying causes of the excessive erasures and found the following:

- The fourth grade 2011 NJ ASK 4 LAL had 24 MC questions and the 2011 NJ ASK 4 MATH had 35 MC questions.
 - A WTR erasure rate of **2.50** for the LAL test is **4 SDs** above the statewide mean; the students tested by Ms. Milara-Ramirez had a WTR erasure rate of **2.7** for LAL, which equated to **more than 4 SDs** above the statewide mean.
 - A WTR erasure rate of **2.77** for the MATH test is **4 SDs** above the statewide mean; the students tested by Ms. Milara-Ramirez had a WTR erasure rate of **3.5** for MATH, which equated to **more than 5 SDs** above the statewide mean.

- Statewide, **61.81%** of the erasures on the LAL portion of the test were WTR erasures for the fourth grade and **63.17%** of the erasures on the MATH portion of the test were WTR erasures for the fourth grade. In Ms. Milara-Ramirez's class, **81.81%** of the erasures (27 of 33) on the LAL portion of the test were WTR erasures and **76.08%** of the erasures (35 of 46) on the MATH portion of the test were WTR erasures.

Melissa Milara-Ramirez – Interview

Ms. Milara-Ramirez was interviewed on March 13, 2013. Ms. Milara-Ramirez stated she was assigned as a fourth grade teacher at Roseville during the 2010-2011 school year, and is currently serving in the same position. Ms. Milara-Ramirez stated she served as an examiner for the 2011 NJ ASK 4 for the students she taught during the 2010-2011 school year. The investigators confirmed Ms. Milara-Ramirez's signature on the May 2, 2011 Training Attendance Sheet; however, a TSA was not forwarded to the OFAC by the district for further verification of training. Documentation provided by the school and district did not identify a proctor for Ms. Milara-Ramirez during the testing and when questioned she was unable to recall whether or not a proctor assisted her. Ms. Milara-Ramirez stated there were not any student disruptions or security breaches in her classroom, she did not assist students by providing answers, and she did not engage in any activity which would compromise the integrity of the testing process.

Additional Interviews

Three examiners in 2010 and two examiners in 2011 did not exceed the 4SD threshold set by the state on either the LAL or MATH portions of the NJ ASK. The investigators attempted to interview these staff members along with the proctors from 2010 and 2011, the school Principal/STC, and former students in regards to the administration of the NJ ASK:

Amanda Galasso – third grade proctor, 2010 and 2011

Ms. Galasso was not interviewed for this review despite several attempts on the part of the investigators to schedule an interview while speaking to her via telephone. Ms. Galasso also failed to respond to several voice mails left on her telephone. The Department of Labor information indicates Ms. Galasso has not worked since the third quarter of 2012, with the last employer identified as the Newark Board of Education. Based upon interviews with Roseville staff members and documentation received from the district, the investigators learned Ms. Galasso was assigned as a substitute teacher who performed her duties at Roseville and other schools throughout the district and served as a proctor to Ms. Orsini for the 2010 NJ ASK 3 and the 2011 NJ ASK 3 test administration. The investigators confirmed her signature was on the May 6, 2010 Training Attendance Sheet and on the May 2, 2011 Training Attendance Sheet. TSAs for 2010 and 2011 were not forwarded to the OFAC by the district for further verification of NJ ASK training.

Rosemarie Carella – third grade proctor, 2010 and third grade examiner, 2011

Ms. Carella retired from the district in 2011. The investigators contacted Ms. Carella via telephone, advised her of the facts and circumstances of the investigation, and asked if she would consent to an interview regarding her participation in the 2010 and 2011 NJ ASK test administrations. Ms. Carella stated she did not recall much of her involvement with the NJ ASK test administration and did not wish to be interviewed.

The investigators determined, from documentation provided by the district, Ms. Carella was assigned to Roseville as a Math Coach and served as a proctor to Ms. DeVito for the 2010 NJ ASK 3 test administration. In addition, Ms. Carella served as a chief examiner during the 2011 NJ ASK 3 test administration for Ms. Carmen Gonzalez's class. The investigators confirmed Ms. Carella's signature on the May 6, 2010 Training Attendance Sheet and her signature on the May 2, 2011 Training Attendance Sheet; however, a TSA was not forwarded to the OFAC by the district for further verification of NJ ASK training.

Ramon Fuentes – third grade examiner, 2011

Mr. Fuentes was not interviewed for this investigation, as it was determined through interviews with Roseville staff members and his family he has retired from the district and relocated to the state of Florida. His family indicated they did not have an address or telephone number where Mr. Fuentes could be contacted. The investigators determined Mr. Fuentes was assigned to Roseville as a bi-lingual World Language Teacher during the 2010-2011 school year and served as an examiner for the 2011 NJ ASK 3 test administration for three English as a Second Language (ESL) students. The investigators could not confirm whether Mr. Fuentes received training prior to the 2011 NJ ASK test administration based upon the lack of his signature on the May 2, 2011 Training Attendance Sheet. The TSAs were not forwarded to the OFAC by the district for further verification of NJ ASK training. One student taking the 2011 NJ ASK 3 with Mr. Fuentes as examiner was interviewed for this investigation. The student indicated Mr. Fuentes did not provide assistance during the test. According to the student, prior to taking the test, Mr. Fuentes advised the students to go over their work when completed, go back to the passage if they did not know the answer, and try to eliminate incorrect answers. The student did not recall how often the student erased on the 2011 NJ ASK 3; however, did recall erasing and changing answers the student believed to be incorrect.

Dr. Elizabeth Achebe – fourth grade proctor, 2012

The investigators attempted to contact Dr. Achebe on three occasions with the purpose of conducting an interview regarding her service as a proctor for the 2012 NJ ASK 4 test administration. Messages were left on her home's voice mail system requesting she contact the OFAC; however, as of the date of this report, she has yet to respond to any of these requests. Dr. Achebe is currently employed by the district.

Patricia Fede - third grade examiner, 2011

Ms. Fede was interviewed on February 21, 2013. She stated she was assigned to Roseville as the Technology Coordinator during the 2010-2011 school year and is currently serving in the same position. Ms. Fede administered the 2011 NJ ASK test to one student. During the interview, Ms. Fede stated she believed the student was a special education student due to the extra time that was provided to the student to take the test. She also stated she did not have any personal knowledge as to the student's academic ability and further added she did not provide any assistance to the student during the test administration.

Abigail Shure – third grade examiner, 2010

Ms. Shure was interviewed on March 5, 2013. She stated she was assigned as an ESL Teacher at Roseville for three and one-half years. She is currently assigned to the Elliot Street School as an employee without a position. Ms. Shure stated she attended training for administration of the NJ ASK and the investigators

confirmed her signature on the May 6, 2010 Training Attendance Sheet; however, a TSA was not forwarded to the OFAC by the district for further verification of training. Ms. Shure stated she served as an examiner for two students during the 2010 NJ ASK 3 test administration. Ms. Shure added there were not any student disruptions or security breaches, she did not assist students by providing answers, and she did not engage in any activity which would compromise the integrity of the testing process. One student who was administered the test by Ms. Shure was interviewed as part of this review. The student stated Ms. Shure did not provide assistance during testing and the student did not see Ms. Shure assist the other student in the class. The student recalled erasing and changing answers in a number comparable to the number of WTR erasures described in the 2010 EA Report. Ms. Shure did not provide any information regarding security breaches or procedural irregularities occurring at Roseville during the 2010 NJ ASK 3 test administration.

Carmen Gonzalez – third grade proctor, 2011

Ms. Gonzalez was interviewed on March 5, 2013. Ms. Gonzalez stated she was assigned as a third grade teacher at Roseville during the 2010-2011 school year, and is currently assigned as a preschool teacher at the Clinton Avenue School. Ms. Gonzalez revealed, despite the fact she was the third grade classroom teacher, she was assigned as the proctor and Ms. Carella was assigned as the examiner for the 2011 NJ ASK 3 test. Ms. Gonzalez stated she had attended training in the administration of the NJ ASK. The investigators confirmed her signature on the May 2, 2011 Training Attendance Sheet; however, a TSA was not forwarded to the OFAC by the district for further verification of training. Ms. Gonzalez stated there were not any disruptions or security breaches during testing, she and Ms. Carella did not assist students by providing answers, and they did not engage in any activity which would compromise the integrity of the testing process. Upon reviewing the list of students in the class she proctored, Ms. Gonzalez stated she did not recall observing the students erasing many times during the NJ ASK.

Rose Serra – Principal and STC, 2010 and 2011

Ms. Serra was interviewed on March 5, 2013. Based upon documentation provided by the district, the investigators determined Ms. Serra was assigned as the principal and STC of Roseville during the 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 school years. She continues to serve as the principal. The investigators questioned Ms. Serra whether or not she received training in order to serve as the STC and she confirmed she had attended NJ ASK training. In addition, her signature appears on the 2010 and 2011 NJ ASK 3-8 Test Coordinator Workshop sign-in sheets confirming her presence at the STC training programs.

During the interview, Ms. Serra was advised by her union representative, Dr. Leonard Pugliese, to not answer any questions posed to her by the investigators concerning the NJ ASK review. When asked a series of questions, Ms. Serra responded by stating, "I have nothing to say" or "I do not recall." When asked whether she had knowledge of anyone assisting the students taking the NJ ASK test she replied, "I had no idea." When asked whether she had any knowledge regarding tests being manipulated in any way she stated, "No, I do not."

Douglas Edelstein – fourth grade examiner, 2011

Mr. Edelstein was interviewed on April 3, 2013. Mr. Edelstein stated he was assigned to Roseville as a Special Education Teacher operating the School Resource Center during the 2009-2010 school year and is

currently serving in the same position. Mr. Edelstein told the investigators he was approved for leave on May 4, 2010, and he did not return to school until after the completion of the 2010 NJ ASK test administration.

Mr. Edelstein's testimony contradicts Ms. Serra's previous statement which indicated she trained Mr. Edelstein during a one-on-one training session after May 6, 2010.

Mr. Edelstein served as an examiner for the 2011 NJ ASK 4 for special education students who required certain accommodations as listed in the students' Individualized Education Program (IEP). The investigators confirmed Mr. Edelstein's signature on the May 2, 2011 Training Attendance Sheet; however, a TSA was not forwarded to the OFAC by the district for further verification of NJ ASK training. Mr. Edelstein stated he was familiar with some, but not all of the students he administered the test to in 2011. He was very vocal in his belief that examiners who tested special education students would not have a motivation to assist those students in order to inflate their scores. He informed the investigators special education students' scores do not count in the overall scores assigned to the school. Mr. Edelstein stated there were not any student disruptions or security breaches, he did not assist students by providing answers, and he did not engage in any activity which would compromise the integrity of the testing process.

Students

During the first week of February 2013, the investigators sent letters to the parents or guardians of the students who attended Roseville during the 2010 and 2011 testing cycles to request permission to interview the children. As of February 11, 2013, the investigators had not received any responses to the letters and began contacting the parents or guardians by phone in an attempt to schedule interviews. The majority of the telephone numbers provided by the district were disconnected, out of order, or rang continuously with no answer. Several parents were contacted, advised of the circumstances surrounding the review, and asked if they would consent to having their child interviewed. The parents were advised that, in the event they could not attend an interview, a school counselor would attend the interview and serve as an advocate for their child. Three of the parents who were contacted consented to the interview process. Each of the three students was interviewed in the presence of one parent at the educational facilities they attended during the 2012-2013 school year in Newark and East Orange. None of the students provided information as to security breaches or procedural irregularities occurring in the classroom while they were taking the NJ ASK at Roseville.

CONCLUSION

Based upon the preponderance of evidence collected during the investigation, the statistical data, probabilities of certain statistical anomalies, and the extreme occurrences of WTR erasures, the investigators concluded security breaches occurred and the integrity of the NJ ASK testing process was compromised during the 2010 and 2011 NJ ASK test administrations at Roseville Avenue School.

Training:

Ms. Serra failed to provide the mandatory training to the staff who administered or handled the 2010 and 2011 NJ ASK.

The New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge Spring 2010 and 2011 Test Coordinator Manuals govern mandatory training for all school personnel. The pertinent portions of the manuals, as they relate to the investigation are:

All district and school personnel should be informed of the NJ ASK 3-8 security procedures prior to test administration, including those personnel not directly involved in administering the test. (page 13)

Training sessions must be conducted at each NJ ASK 3-8 testing site. Working with the principal, the DTC and the STC for each school must schedule, organize, and conduct training sessions. (page 23)

School Test Coordinators Responsibilities...Conducts all necessary scheduling and training for test administration within the school. (page 28)

Ms. Serra did not provide training to the head custodian who had access to the locked closet which contained secure testing materials during the 2010 NJ ASK administration. Additionally, Ms. Serra did not provide training to Ms. Marinaro, who served as an examiner for the 2010 NJ ASK, and to Mr. Fuentes, who served as an examiner for the 2011 NJ ASK.

The district investigation documented NJ ASK test materials were stored in a shelved locked closet in the principal's office which only Ms. Serra and the school's head custodian had keys to. This information was obtained in an interview with Ms. Serra during the district investigation. The OFAC investigators attempted to question Ms. Serra; however, she chose not to answer questions regarding this matter. An examination of the May 6, 2010 Training Attendance Sheet denotes the printed name, signature, and grade/title of the staff members who attended the training. This document did not identify the head custodian as having attended this training. The head custodian had access to the locked closet which contained secure testing materials and should have been informed of security procedures prior to the test administration or had his access to the secure location temporarily suspended while the test materials were present.

The OFAC investigators observed the absence of Ms. Marinaro's name on the May 6, 2010 Training Attendance Sheet. During an interview, Ms. Marinaro stated she was unexpectedly pulled from her art class to serve as an examiner for a student on three of the four testing days. When questioned as to whether she attended turnkey training, she stated she believed she received training. Based upon the absence of Ms. Marinaro's name and signature on the May 6, 2010 Training Attendance Sheet, her statements regarding the

unexpected assignment as a chief examiner, the absence of a signed TSA and the refusal of Ms. Serra to answer questions on this matter, the investigators could not verify whether Ms. Marinaro attended the required training.

The OFAC investigators reviewed the May 2, 2011 Training Attendance Sheet for Roseville staff members. Based upon the agenda, training for NJ ASK test administration was to be discussed at this meeting. Mr. Fuentes' signature was absent from this list which attested to his presence at the meeting. Mr. Fuentes served as a chief examiner for the 2011 NJ ASK based upon records maintained by the district, the school, and a witness interview. Due to his retirement and subsequent relocation out of state, Mr. Fuentes was not interviewed for this investigation. Based upon the absence of Mr. Fuentes signature on the May 2, 2011 Training Attendance Sheet, the inability of investigators to interview him, the absence of a signed TSA, and the refusal of Ms. Serra to answer questions on this matter, the investigators could not verify whether Mr. Fuentes attended the required training.

The failure of the head custodian to be informed of security procedures is a security breach according to the NJ ASK Test Coordinator Manual Security Procedures.

The failure of Ms. Marinaro and Mr. Fuentes to be trained is a security breach according to the NJ ASK Test Coordinator Manual Examiner Security Procedures.

School Security Checklist:

Ms. Serra did not properly complete the School Security Checklists during the 2010 and 2011 NJ ASK.

The New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge Spring 2010 and 2011 Test Coordinator Manuals govern specific procedures to maintain an accurate record of the chain of distribution and collection of all grades three through eight test booklets. The pertinent portions of the manuals as they relate to the investigation are:

Using Security Checklists: Use the School Security Checklist each time test booklets are checked out, following these steps to document the transfer of all test booklets to examiners. Step 5. When the examiner returns the test booklets at the end of each day, the school test coordinator must initial the range of test booklets received and write the date and time of return. (page 14)

School Test Coordinator Responsibilities: Before Testing... Distributes test materials to examiners each day of testing, acquiring examiners' signatures on the School Security Checklist to document the transfer of secure materials; on each day of testing, test booklets should be assigned and checked out to examiners on the School Security Checklists. Collects test material, again documenting the transfer on the School Security Checklists. (page 30)

Upon review of the 2010 School Security Checklists, the OFAC investigators found the return time was missing for the third grade Day 2 LAL testing for 17 test booklets signed out by Ms. DeVito and 14 test booklets signed out by Ms. Orsini.

In addition, upon review of the 2011 School Security Checklists, investigators noticed on the third grade Day 1 LAL testing, Ms. Orsini signed out 16 test booklets at 9:00 AM. Fourteen of those test booklets did not have a return date and time, and signature by the STC, Ms. Serra. The last two test booklets had a return date and time (May 9, 2011 at 11:38 AM) and signature by the STC, Ms. Serra. These two test booklets were listed on the subsequent page from the first 14 of the School Security Checklist.

The failure to accurately document the return time of secure test materials is a breach in test security according to the NJ ASK Test Coordinator Manual Security Procedures.

School Security Checklists for Make-Up Testing:

Ms. Serra did not properly complete the Make-Up Test Administration School Security Checklists provided for make-up testing during the 2010 and 2011 NJ ASK.

The New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge Spring 2010 and 2011 Test Coordinator Manuals govern specific procedures to maintain an accurate record of the chain of distribution and collection of all grades three through eight test booklets for make-up testing. The pertinent information of the manuals as they relate to the investigation is:

Duplicate and use the Make-Up Test Administration School Security Checklist in Appendix G to record the security numbers of test booklets which are assigned to each examiner for each day of make-up testing. (page 27)

During the 2010 and 2011 NJ ASK testing, Ms. Serra incorrectly recorded the distribution of make-up test materials on the School Security Checklists. The make-up test information for students who were absent during Day 1 and Day 2 of LAL testing was recorded on the School Security Checklists rather than on the Make-Up Test Administration School Security Checklist.

The failure to utilize the Make-Up Test Administration School Security Checklist is a security breach according to the NJ ASK Test Coordinator Manual Security Procedures

Testing Data:

Mr. Christopher Cerf, The Commissioner of Education, released a memo to all Chief School Administrators in March 2012, informing them that the DOE will continue to use the erasure analysis reports as one tool to identify possible testing irregularities. In addition, the memo stated the DOE will continue to refer any school that experienced a test security breach of any sort during test administration to the OFAC.

The investigators concluded the deterrent effect of the memo, which was released to all Chief School Administrators along with the NJ ASK Erasure Analysis Review, and the absence of several Roseville examiners from the 2012 test cycle who had previously tested students with extreme WTR erasures, were contributing factors to the decrease in overall WTR erasures and erasure rates.

Comparative analysis of the Roseville NJ ASK 3 and 4 WTR erasure data indicated a decrease in overall WTR erasures and WTR erasures per student from the 2010 through 2012 test administrations. Tables C and D illustrate this information:

TABLE C: Roseville School NJ ASK 3 WTR Erasures/WTR Erasures Per Student 2010-2012

	2010 Erasures/Per Student (37 Students)	2011 Erasures/Per Student (35 Students)	2012 Erasures/Per Student (22 Students)
LAL	98 WTR/2.65	73 WTR/2.09	4 WTR/0.18
MATH	244 WTR/6.69	139 WTR/3.97	10 WTR/0.45
TOTAL	342 WTR/9.24	212 WTR/6.05	14 WTR/0.63

TABLE D: Roseville School NJ ASK 4 WTR Erasures/WTR Erasures Per Student 2011-2012

	2010 Erasures/Per Student	2011 Erasures/Per Student (30 Students)	2012 Erasures/Per Student (31 Students)
LAL	Not Flagged	81 WTR/2.70	42 WTR/1.35
MATH	Not Flagged	119 WTR/3.97	17 WTR/0.54
TOTAL	Not Flagged	200 WTR/6.67	59 WTR/1.90

RECOMMENDATIONS

Analysis of 2013 NJ ASK for Students Tested by Ms. Figueiras

Students tested by Ms. Figueiras for the 2011 NJ ASK 4 had a WTR erasure rate of 3.2 for the LAL portion of the test, which equated to more than 5 SDs above the statewide mean, and a WTR erasure rate of 5.3 for the MATH portion of the test, which equated to more than 9 SDs above the statewide mean. Students tested by Ms. Figueiras for the 2012 NJ ASK 4 had a WTR erasure rate of 2.60 for the LAL portion of the test, which equated to more than 8 SDs above the statewide mean, and a WTR erasure rate of 1.8 for the MATH portion of the test, which equated to less than 3 SDs above the statewide mean. Although the students tested by Ms. Figueiras in 2012 experienced a decrease in overall WTR erasures and erasure rates from the students tested in 2011, the 2012 students' erasure rate for LAL was still more than 8 SDs above the statewide mean.

It is recommended MI provide the OA with WTR statistical data regarding Ms. Figueiras' students taking the 2013 NJ ASK 4 prior to the 2014 NJ ASK test administration. An analysis of the 2013 test data should be performed in order to determine if the students tested by Ms. Figueiras still exhibit erasure rates that are 4 SDs or more above the statewide mean. In the event the analysis is positive for these variables, it is further recommended Ms. Figueiras' classroom be monitored by the appropriate authority.

Mandatory Retention of Test Assessments Security Agreements and School Security Checklists

An examination of documentation provided by the district in response to requests from the OFAC revealed the absence of TSAs for the 2010 and 2011 test administration and School Security Checklists from 2011 NJ ASK 3 Days 1 and 2 testing and NJ ASK 4 MATH Days 1 and 2 testing. The investigators inquired of Ms. Serra and Ms. Fede if Roseville maintained copies of these documents, and learned they were not retained

by the school. A request was made to the District Test Coordinator, Ms. Rochanda Jackson, in order to determine if copies of the documents were available. Ms. Jackson responded by saying in 2010 and 2011 districts and schools were not responsible for maintaining copies of School Security Checklists and TSAs per the Test Coordinator Manual, thus copies were not available.

The lack of TSAs made it difficult to verify turnkey training attendance by personnel involved in the NJ ASK test administration. The aforementioned issues regarding Ms. Marinaro and Mr. Fuentes' training attendance could have been resolved with access to the TSAs.

The absence of School Security Checklists prevented investigators from determining whether security breaches or procedural irregularities occurred in the distribution of test materials for the 2011 NJ ASK test administration. The security breaches and procedural irregularities which can be identified through examination of the School Security Checklist include the following:

- verification of the time and date of the distribution and return of test materials;
- verification of examiners who take possession of test materials;
- verification of tests materials being returned within the allotted time constraints.

Although this is not in violation of the Test Coordinator Manual, it is recommended copies of these documents be maintained at the school and district levels in the future.

Access to Test Materials

It is recommended any staff at Roseville having access to test materials attend the required training, as stated in the Test Coordinator Manual. In the event any staff member does not attend the requisite training, their access to the test storage location shall be denied during the time period the test materials are present upon school property.

Submitting a Corrective Action Plan (CAP)

The district shall submit a CAP to the OFAC which includes the recommendations made in this report and indicates the measures that will be implemented in order to correct the breaches in testing which are included in this report. In addition, the CAP should include the procedures the district will employ to ensure staff compliance with the testing procedures.

REFERRAL

This investigative report will be referred to the State Board of Examiners for further review and to take whatever action it deems appropriate.

Submitted by:



Thomas C. Martin, Manager
Investigations Unit

Approved by:



Robert J. Cicchino, Director
Office of Fiscal Accountability and Compliance

Investigators:

James Scaringelli
Richard Lucherini

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY AND COMPLIANCE
CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN

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SCHOOL DISTRICT NAME: The Newark Public Schools – Roseville Avenue School COUNTY: Essex

TYPE OF EXAMINATION: NJ ASK

DATE OF BOARD MEETING: December 16, 2014 OFAC Case #: INV-117-12

CONTACT PERSON: Gabrielle Wyatt

TELEPHONE NUMBER: (973) 733-7334 FAX NUMBER: (973) 733-8771

RECOMMENDATION NUMBER	CORRECTIVE ACTION	METHOD OF IMPLEMENTATION	INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION	COMPLETION DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION
1. School Security Checklists should be maintained at the school and district levels in the future	<p>A. <i>Continue to complete, collect, and maintain school security checklists.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> STCs are required to use the School Security Checklist to track the exchange of test materials daily. Schools are required to retain all security checklists and photocopies of irregularity reports at the school. 	A. Operational protocols; training	A. Gabrielle Wyatt	A. May 2015
2. Any staff having access to test materials should attend the required training	<p>A. <i>Continue to require all STCs are required to train school-level examiners and proctors on testing protocols.</i></p> <p>a. STCs will be required to send the training's agenda,</p>	A. Operational protocols; training	A. Gabrielle Wyatt	A. May 2015

Carrie Anderson
Chief School Administrator

12/17/14
Date

Blaine Wilson
Board Secretary/Business Administrator

12/17/14
Date

**NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY AND COMPLIANCE
CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN**

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	<p>handouts, staff assignments, bell schedule, security plan, and sign-in sheet to their district monitor in advance of turn-key trainings. Audits of school presentations will be conducted as determined by the district.</p> <p>b. Following the turn-key trainings, school examiners must read and sign a Test Security Agreement (See Appendix G: Test Security Agreement)</p> <p>c. In SY13-14, a Central Office staff member attended the turn-key trainings at the schools under investigation (see Appendix H: Turnkey Trainings).</p>			
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Chief School Administrator

Date

Board Secretary/Business Administrator

Date