















## **APPENDIX A. Glossary of Test Security Terms**

### **Breach**

(1) an event, intentional or not, that results in the inappropriate exposure of test items or answers that could potentially impact the accuracy of the test results; OR  
(2) an action by others before, during, or after a test administration to impact student test scores (e.g., educators changing student answer sheets).

### **Cheating**

General term that can include educator or student misconduct or improprieties that includes intentional misbehavior or unethical practices.

### **Compromise**

Disclosure of test items or forms; can be intentional or unintentional. May also refer to changing the interpretation of a test score or changing the test score itself.

### **Data Forensics**

The use of analytic methods to identify or detect possible cheating. Procedures can include evaluation of score gains, aberrance or person fit, erasures, latency analysis, similarity analysis, and examination of changes in student responses (wrong-to-right, right-to-wrong, wrong-to-wrong).

### **Impropriety**

Inappropriate misconduct; a more serious offense than an irregularity. The difference between impropriety and irregularity is usually defined in perception of the degree, intent, and/or effect of the misconduct.

### **Irregularity**

This includes many different activities, not necessarily cheating, but anything unusual that happened during testing, such as the fire alarms went off or a power outage.

### **Misconduct**

Misbehavior during testing, such as inappropriate proctoring or other violations of standard testing protocol.

### **Security Investigation**

Follow-up activities regarding possible cheating or piracy of test materials. Typically involves the collection of evidence, review of available information, interviews of suspected staff, and summary of findings from the investigation.

### **Test Piracy**

Stealing of test forms, items, prompts, or other secure testing materials, often for the purpose of selling the materials to others.

### **Test Security Kit**

Security-related procedures, processes, and regulations, including the escalation path to be followed in the event of a test security breach.