DRC INSIGHT Headset Guidance

The following audio guidelines are to help maximize the potential for testing success:

- Make sure the headset is set as the preferred playback device.
- Students will not be able to adjust the volume on their device once the DRC INSIGHT Secure Application is launched. Make sure the audio is not muted and the volume is turned up before launching the application.
- If headsets are shared between students, be sure to properly sanitize the devices between use.
- To optimize the testing experience for all students, it is suggested the testing environment allows for ample space between students. Even with headsets, audio from the assessment may still be audible a few feet away from the student.

The following chart outlines guidance on headset features for use with DRC INSIGHT.

Configuration	Suitability	Pros and Cons
Over the ear headset	Ideal	Comfortable when worn for a longer time period by students of different ages. Weight and size of headsets can be selected based on students' age. Portable headsets are smaller and lighter and hence may be suitable for younger students. Deluxe headsets are larger and heavier but have the advantage of reducing more noise.
Noise canceling headphones	Acceptable	Noise cancellation often does not cancel out the sound of human voices, so this feature provides less benefit. Many headsets with a noise cancellation feature require a power source (e.g., batteries or USB connection).
Ear buds or ear headphones	Acceptable	Sound volume can vary based on the positioning of the buds in the ear, resulting in inconsistent audio playback.
Device speakers	Marginal	Audio playback built into devices generally does not offer very high fidelity, which can lead to poor audio quality. Device speakers do not offer privacy during the test.
Bluetooth or wireless headsets	Not recommended	To ensure test security, students should not use Bluetooth or wireless headsets. Some Bluetooth devices can be connected to multiple devices at once. This creates the possibility for students to connect them to their testing device and their smartphones. Test Administrators need to be aware that smartphones are turned off and/or not present and not connected to any peripherals a student is using during the assessment.
Play Back Mode: Stereo	Optional	The sound files of the assessment are recorded and played back in stereo.
Connector Plug: • *USB* • *Single 3.5 mm plug (TRRS)* • *Dual 3.5 mm plugs (TRS)*	Optional	Many USB-connected headsets require driver installation and need to be manually enabled as the preferred playback device. Some computers have two ports for connecting audio-out and audio-in separately, while others have one port for both. Make sure to check your specific equipment before purchasing headsets. Adapters for both types are widely available.
Volume Control: Inline	Optional	This is a nice optional feature as headsets that do not have an inline volume control will need to be tested for volume prior to launching DRC INSIGHT Secure Application.