

GUIDELINE FOR PARTICIPATION OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES IN STATE AND DISTRICTWIDE ASSESSMENTS

The Board of Education believes that students with disabilities should have access to all testing accommodations necessary to participate in state and district-wide assessments in order to ensure that the student's academic achievement and functional performance is fairly and accurately measured.

Test accommodations are changes made in the administration of a test, including testing procedures or formats, in order to remove obstacles to the test-taking process caused by a student's disability, that do not alter the measurement of a construct. The District recognizes that the provision of testing accommodations to students with disabilities enables such students to participate in assessment programs on an equal basis with their nondisabled peers. Testing accommodations provide students with disabilities the opportunity to demonstrate mastery of skills and attainment of knowledge without being limited or unfairly restricted by their disability. Further, testing accommodations provide opportunity for students with disabilities to gain access to more challenging courses and programs.

Therefore, the Board adopts the following guidelines to ensure that all state and district-wide assessments are administered using appropriate accommodations:

1. Test accommodations must be provided on a consistent and uniform basis, as provided by each student's IEP should not be excessive and should alter the standard administration of the test to the least extent possible.
2. Testing Accommodations are neither intended nor permitted to:
 - Alter the construct of the test being measured or invalidate the results;
 - Provide an unfair advantage for students with disabilities over students taking tests under standardized conditions;
 - Substitute for knowledge or abilities the student has not attained.
3. The following students are eligible to receive testing accommodations:
 - Students classified by the CSE or CPSE as having a disability pursuant to 8 N.Y.C.R.R. §200.1(zz); or §200.1 (mm) of the Commissioner's Regulations;
 - Students identified as having a disability pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act by a 504 Multidisciplinary Team;
 - Students who incur disabilities for 30 days or less before administration of a state or districtwide test and who are authorized by the Principal to receive testing accommodations;
 - Students previously declassified by the CSE/CPSE who are provided with such declassification accommodations.

4. The following individuals are authorized to make the decisions regarding testing accommodations for a student with a disability:
 - The CSE or CPSE, if the student is classified under IDEA and the Commissioner's Regulations or if the student has been declassified;
 - The Section 504 Multidisciplinary Team for those students identified as having a disability pursuant to section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act;
 - The School Principal, for general education students who have incurred a short or long term disability within 30 days before administration of assessments and where sufficient time is not available for the development of an IEP/504 Plan.
5. All appropriate testing accommodations will appear in a student's IEP or 504 Accommodation Plan and will be renewed at least annually by the CSE/CPSE or Multidisciplinary Team (except for declassification accommodations).
6. Steps shall be taken to ensure that teachers and service providers are aware of testing accommodations for students and how they are to be implemented.

Legal References: 8 N.Y.C.R.R. §§200.1(zz) and 200.2(b)(13)
Section 504 of the Americans With Disabilities Act
Individuals with Disabilities in Education Improvement Act of 2004

1st Reading June 19, 2007

2nd Reading & Adoption July 9, 2007