# Non-Standard Accommodations

Office of Assessments





#### Overview

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- Timeline
- Application



#### Introduction

- Non-Standard Accommodations are accommodations offered for students on an IEP or 504 that require OSDE approval.
- The ELA/Read-Aloud Accommodation (NS1) is for students who are not able to decode text on their own.
- The Unique Accommodation (NS2) is for students who require changes or alterations to the test materials or presentation.



#### Timeline

- The application window opens on December 1 annually.
  - Applications are submitted through the Nonstandard Accommodation Application in Single Sign On.
- The application window closes on February 1 annually.
- The application status will be indicated in Single Sign On no later than March 15.



#### **Documentation Needed for NSA**

- All pages of the up-to-date IEP/504
- An evaluation report/MEEGS within the past 3 years.
- ALL pages of the PAR Administration (or AEM Navigator, as appropriate).
- Completed OSTP ELA/Read-Aloud Nonstandard Accommodation Protocol
- At least three reading screening results from the past year.
  - Two from the current school year.
  - No read-aloud accommodations should be utilized with the screener.
  - Approved screeners linked on the protocol (can use any approved for RSA).



# **Unique Accommodations (Form U)**

- Same timeline/method of submitting.
- Please have the Form U filled out COMPLETELY.
  - IEP/504 Dates noted
  - All questions answered
  - All signatures needed



# **NSA: 3-Pronged Approach**

 The student has a specific disability that severely limits or prevents him/her from decoding printed text at any level of difficulty, even after varied and repeated attempts to teach the student to do so (i.e., the student is a non-reader, not simply reading below grade level); and



# NSA: 3-Pronged Approach (#2)

 The student can only access printed materials through a screen reader (assistive technology) or Human Reader and/or is provided with spoken text on audiotape, CD, video, or other electronic format during routine instruction (including Sign Language Interpretation) except while the student is being taught to decode; and



# NSA: 3-Pronged Approach (#3)

 The IEP/504 team will utilize and provide the required documentation from the OSTP ELA Test Read-Aloud Protocol, which includes the use of the Protocol for Accommodations in Reading (PAR) or the AEM Navigator for deaf or blind students. This documentation must be uploaded into the Nonstandard Accommodation Application in the Single Sign-On website for consideration by the OSDE.



#### **Unique Accommodations**

- Students with disabilities who have IEPs/504 plans are eligible for consideration for unique accommodations on state assessments (e.g., allow projection of test for students receiving the Sign Language Interpretation accommodation in small groups, manipulatives, special devices, glucose monitors, etc.).
- The unique accommodation must be one that is regularly used by the student for classroom instruction, must be on the student's IEP, and must not alter the underlying content of the assessment.



### **Approval Process**

- The NSA Applications are reviewed by an intra-agency committee; the committee is comprised of specialists in literacy and special education.
- The decision of the committee is final.
- Form U applications are reviewed within the Office of Assessments and determined if all the required documentation is included, and the accommodation is reasonable.

