Non-Standard Accommodations

Office of Assessments





Overview

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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.
 - This accommodation is **not** for students who read below gradelevel.
- The Unique Accommodation (NS2) is for students who require changes or alterations to the test materials, presentation, or environment.



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.



NSA: 3-Pronged Approach

For NSA application to be considered:

Student is unable to decode at any level

Student needs, and is provided with, assistance (assistive technology or human reader) **EXCEPT WHILE BEING TAUGHT DECODING**

IEP/504 team uploads required documentation into the Non-Standard Accomodation Application in Single Sign-On



NSA: Factor 1

 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: Factor 2

 The student can only access printed materials through assistance, such as 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: Factor 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)
 - 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.



Documentation Needed for NSA

- An up-to-date IEP/504 (No longer need to upload due to EdPlan)
- An evaluation report/MEEGS within the past 3 years. (No longer needed to upload due to EdPlan)
- Completed OSTP ELA/Read-Aloud Nonstandard Accommodation Protocol
- ALL pages of the PAR Administration (or AEM Navigator for visually impaired students).
- 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).



Example NS1 Application

- Pages 1-4 NSA Protocol and Rubric
- Pages 5-7 PAR Teacher Scoring Sheets (Please use the AEM Navigator for visually impaired students)
- <u>Pages 8+ Benchmark/Progress Monitoring Data</u> (This will look different depending on which screener is used)
- Please provide any additional information that you feel would be necessary in determining the student's reading ability.



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.



Unique Accommodations (Form U)

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



Example Form U

Sample Form U Application



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 to determine if all the required documentation is included and if the accommodation is reasonable.



Thank You!



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Contact Information

Questions?

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