Case Scenario 1

Susie has an intellectual disability. She is placed in a self-contained class, but she has been participating in some general education classes. Susie’s 4th grade general education teacher has required her to participate in spelling tests. Susie received a failing grade for the past 4 spelling tests. The teacher has decided to reduce the number of spelling words on Susie’s list. She is only responsible for the single syllable words on the spelling list each week.

Is this an example of an accommodation or modification? (circle)

Are there other ways to address this student’s need? yes

How? The teacher could focus on spelling lists with similar spelling patterns, or include a word sort for the student. The student can choose words that fit the spelling pattern and sort out the words that don’t fit.

Case Scenario 2

Marco is a high school student who does not receive special education or Section 504 services. In his Algebra I class, Marco often makes mistakes when multiplying or dividing large numbers with decimals. When Marco uses a calculator, he arrives at the correct answer.

Is this an example of an accommodation or modification? (circle)

Are there other ways to address this student’s need? yes

How? The teacher can address Marco’s needs by providing Marco with graph paper (or notebook paper turned sideways). A copy of the class notes could be provided for Marco, including an example question with the procedures explaining how to solve the question in a step by step process. Additionally, the teacher could offer Marco a Peer tutor, or the teacher could monitor Marco checking his work after every 2-4 problems.
Case Scenario 3

Bobby has a learning disability in reading. He is overwhelmed by long reading passages, because he cannot read on grade level. Bobby needs to learn about main idea and supporting details. The teacher provides Bobby a story on his reading level. Bobby only has to identify the main idea while the rest of the class must identify the main idea and supporting details.

Is this an example of an accommodation or modification? (circle)

Are there other ways to address this student’s need? yes

How? To provide accommodations for Bobby, the teacher can help Bobby identify main idea and details within a paragraph provided, while the class would identify the main idea and details in the whole story. Another idea is to require Bobby answer question cards where he would identify the main idea and/or supporting details within a paragraph written on the card.

Case Scenario 4

Patricia has a learning disability in mathematics. Her teacher has required her to complete the first 10 fast fact problems, but she does not have to reduce to simplest form). The rest of the class must complete the entire page of addition fractions and reduce to the simplest form, including challenging questions numbers 1-30.

Is this an example of an accommodation or modification? (circle)

Are there other ways to address this student’s need? yes

How? The teacher can provide accommodations for Patricia’s needs by focusing on the lesson objective. If the teacher wants to help Patricia master objectives addressed in the class, rather than cutting down the learning expectation for the student an appropriate accommodation will be to require Patricia to solve the odd problems by assigning her a sample of each type of problem. Since the objective is quality and not quantity, help the student master objectives of the lesson without feeling frustrated.
Case Scenario 5

Malcolm’s scores on in-class assignments and assessments improve when he is provided with large print material. The teacher provides Malcolm materials with larger print because she has observed that his comprehension also greatly improves.

Is this an example of an accommodation or modification? (circle)

Are there other ways to address this student’s need? yes

How? Additional ways to provide accommodations for Malcolm are the use of a magnifying glass, an iPad, a document camera to the enlarge the book on a computer screen, or a large print copy of the classroom textbook.

Case Scenario 6

Jacob is a ninth grade student who receives special education services under the category of Other Health Impairment. When reading, Jacob continuously blinks and moves his head, skips lines, omits or transposes words, and loses his place often, even when using a place marker. He sits at the teacher’s computer so he can follow along during PowerPoint presentations.

Is this an example of an accommodation or modification? (circle)

Are there other ways to address this student’s need? yes

How? Additional accommodations the teacher could consider to address Jacob’s needs is the use of colored overlays, colored glasses, a picture window template to reduce the amount of text the student sees at one time, or manually copying handouts to reduce the amount of print on the page.
Classroom Example 1

Rajiv is a fourth grade student who receives special education services for disabilities in reading and mathematics. He has difficulty in all areas of reading such as decoding words, blends, and frequently used sight words.

What accommodations can be utilized to address this student’s need?

A. Additional support personnel
B. Books provided on students instructional level
C. Peer tutoring/one on one support from teacher
D. Book on CD
E. Flashcards of frequently used sight words
F. High school student can record reading for Rajiv

Classroom Example 2

Eliza is a fifth grade student not receiving special education or Section 504 services. She struggles with mathematics computations, but her performance improves when she uses a calculator.

What accommodations can be utilized to address this student’s need?

A. Hundreds chart, addition or multiplication chart
B. Example of math problem showing a sequence of steps for the student to follow
C. Graph paper (or notebook paper turned sideways)
D. Computer program to review math facts and increase automaticity with math recall (chart student’s progress and reward improvement).
Classroom Example 3

Jesse is able to recall basic mathematics facts; however, when solving more complex mathematics problems with algorithms, he is unable to remember the steps and often loses his place. Jesse has attended after-school tutoring all year, but scores on his classroom assignments and tests indicate that his performance has not improved.

What accommodations can be utilized to address this student’s need?

A. Look at test results in the specific area he is struggling.
B. Provide step-by-step problem example of a math problem
C. Student may use open notes
D. Teacher notes
E. Peer tutoring
F. Check problem and answer with teacher after completion of two problems
G. Use colored pencils (different color for each step)

Classroom Example 4

Victor is an eighth grade student who receives special education services to address his needs related to a physical disability. Victor does not struggle with mathematics reasoning and computation; however, he is only able to write with a pencil for short amounts of time because his muscles become fatigued easily and begin to cramp.

What accommodations can be utilized to address this student’s need?

A. Shortened assignments
B. Paraprofessional scribes for student
C. Peer tutor/mentor for struggling student
D. Calculator to calculate problem
E. Multiple choice answer sheet to select answer
Classroom Example 5

Steven is an eleventh grade student who exhibits anger frequently. He talks back to teachers and often misses class, causing him to be behind in his work. Steven’s favorite class (when he attends) is History class with Mr. Michaels.

What accommodations can be utilized to address this student’s need?

A. Establish a mentorship time for the student to meet with Mr. Michaels each week (teacher helper 15 min/week)
B. Reward attendance with time with Mr. Michaels
C. Have a plan for student to help him appropriately deal with anger (step by step procedures for student: breathe, count)
D. Arrange an event with school counselor for:
   a. After school activity
   b. Volunteer project benefitting community
   c. Basketball during lunch for 1 on 1 tournament

Classroom Example 6

Tonya is a seventh grade student who loves science. She is a student with high functioning Asperger’s Syndrome. Her dad is concerned that Tonya fails to fill out her daily agenda. She performs poorly on in-class assessments, because she doesn’t study for the tests. Tonya has six assignments missing from Mr. Jones’ class.

What accommodations can be utilized to address this student’s need?

A. Teacher initiates E-mail communication with parents regarding upcoming tests
B. Staggered approach to help student fill out agenda starting with more restrictive to less restrictive intervention
C. Colored folders and notebooks for each subject area
D. Address organizational goals with student(locker location, transition time)