

Allowable Accommodations and Test Administration Practices

Test Administration Practices are changes or adjustments in test administration that are appropriate for **all** students on **all** tests. They include, but may not be limited to the following practices:

- Test administrator reads directions aloud for student and rereads as needed.
- Test administrator provides an audio recording of directions.
- Test administrator OR student highlights important information in test directions.
- Test administrator simplifies, explains, or clarifies directions in English or native language.
- Test administrator provides oral or written directions in English or native language.
- Test administrator provides distraction-free space or alternate, supervised location for student (e.g., study carrel, front of room, alternate room).
- Test administrator provides commercial dictionary (English or bilingual) for NeSA Writing Test.
- Student rereads and/or restates directions in his/her own words.
- Student uses page marker (e.g., bookmark or straight edge) to maintain place.
- Student marks test booklet (e.g., highlight, annotate, strike-through).
- Student reads aloud to self in quiet manner.
- Student takes test at home or in care facility (e.g., hospital) with district supervision.

Test Accommodations are for students with IEPs or 504 plans: Adjustments or adaptations in the test or the testing process that do not change the test expectation, the grade level, or the construct or content being measured. Accommodations should only be used if appropriate for the student and used during instruction throughout the year.

For English language learners: Changes to testing procedures, testing materials, or the testing situation in order to allow the student meaningful participation in an assessment. Accommodations may be determined appropriate without prior use during instruction throughout the year.

Allowable accommodations vary depending on the test being taken. Not all testing situations allow for the same types of accommodations.

Proctors will make every attempt to accommodate the needs of all students. If special education or classroom teachers feels that changes in administration practices or accommodations need to be made, they need to notify assessment proctors, in writing, well in advance of the testing date.

Test Modifications are adjustments or changes in the test or the testing process that change the test expectation, the grade level, or the construct or content being measured. Many times, modifications are not appropriate.

Approved Accommodations for North West Evaluation Association (Levels)

“No portion of the language usage or reading tests can be read to any student, including Special Education students, English as a Second Language students, or students on IEPs. Words on the mathematics and science tests can be pronounced for any student. Symbols cannot be read or explained, words cannot be defined, and hints or clarifications cannot be given.”

This has, and will continue to be, the operational procedure for this assessment.

Information taken from: Nebraska Department of Education May 6, 2010

Approved Accommodations for Nebraska State Accountability (NeSA)

Approved Accommodations for STARS

Test Accommodations for Students with IEP or 504 Plan (includes NeSA reading, writing, mathematics, science) *Each student's IEP must designate appropriate method for NeSA test administration (online OR paper/pencil), as well as appropriate assessment accommodations. **Alternate test scheduling should be based on student IEP.

Content Presentation

- Test administrator turns pages for student.
- Audio presentation of directions, content, and test items to student (for state reading test, only directions and test items may be read).
 - Test administrator pronounces individual words in directions or test items upon student request.
 - Test administrator reads test aloud and rereads as needed (items only on reading test)
 - Test materials are provided on audiotapes, CDs, etc.
 - Audio is computer generated (i.e., screen reader with/without a speech synthesizer)
- Student uses specialized presentation of test (e.g., color overlay, visual magnification device, large print, tactile graphics, Braille).
- Student uses audio amplification device (e.g., audio trainer, hearing aids, classroom amplification).
- Student uses acoustical voice feedback device (e.g., WhisperPhone).
- Interpreter signs directions, content, and test items to student (only directions and test items may be signed for NeSA reading test).
- Test administrator increases white space on the page (e.g., less print on a page, increased space between items, use of a template to reduce visible print).
- Test administrator provides manipulatives to support student understanding of items/response options.

Response

- Student responds directly in the test booklet or with a Braille. Test administrator transfers student responses to the answer sheet or to online system.
- Student uses primary mode of communication (e.g., communication device, pointing).
- Student uses computer, word processor, Grailler, or specialized writing materials to respond to the NeSA writing test prompt, to respond to the state writing test prompt.
- Student responds orally to test items or writing prompt or uses sign language to indicate responses.
 - Test administrator records student responses. Student must indicate the placement of punctuation, capital letters, indentations, etc.
 - Student uses speech-to-text conversion or voice recognition technology
- Student uses material/devices to problem solve or organize thoughts/responses.
 - Calculator, table(s)
 - Written formula(s)
 - Spelling/grammar device
 - Visual organizer (e.g., graph paper, graphic organizer, semantic mapping software, place marker)
 - Student-made personal dictionaries

Timing/Scheduling/Setting

- Test administrator provides extra time for the state writing test.
- Test administrator provides multiple and frequent breaks during testing time.
- Student has a flexible testing schedule (test must be completed within the state's testing time frame).
- Test administrator changes testing location to increase physical access or use of special equipment (e.g., standing work station, wheelchair accessible space, special desks).

Test Accommodations for English Language Learners (includes NeSA reading, writing, mathematics, science stars)

Direct Linguistic Support with Test Directions

- Test administrator reads directions aloud in English and rereads as needed.
- Test administrator reads directions aloud in native language and rereads as needed.
- Test administrator provides written directions in native language.
- Test administrator provides translated audio recording of directions in native language.
- Test administrator simplifies, explains, or clarifies direction in English or native language.

Direct Linguistic Support with Content and Test Items

- Test administrator reads content and test items to student in English and rereads as needed (for state reading test, only test items may be read).
- Test administrator provides a translator to orally translate content and test items in native language and rereads as needed (for state reading test, only test items may be translated).
- Test administrator provides translated audio recording of content and test items in native language (for state reading, this only applies to test items).
- Test administrator provides a translator to translate content and test items into written native language (for state reading, this only applies to test items).
- Test administrator provides bilingual word list (math and science only).
- Test administrator provides word-to-word bilingual dictionary (math, science, writing only)
- Test administrator provides commercial dictionary (English or bilingual) for NeSA writing test.
- Student responds orally in his/her native language. A translator records student responses into online system or regular test booklet in English (not allowed on NeSA Writing).
- Student responds to NeSA writing prompt in native language (NDE provides writing prompts in Spanish for grades 4, 8, and 11).

Indirect Linguistic Support

- Test administrator provides extra time for the state writing test.

Districts may exempt a recently arrived limited English proficient student from the NeSA reading assessment for 12 months or one reporting period. A district must administer the state mathematics, science, and writing tests to recently arrived limited English proficient students. For NeSA, testing in native language is allowable for up to three years.

For NeSA writing responses in languages other than English or Spanish, answer documents should be returned to the writing scoring site. The student will be counted as a participant.

No testing materials will be provided for the purpose of recording translation prior to the opening of the testing window.