

The Georgia Department of Education Accessibility & Accommodations Manual is based on the work of the Assessing Special Education Students (ASES) State Collaborative on Assessment and Student Standards (SCASS), a Council of Chief State School Officers initiative.

Accessibility During Instruction	15
Accessibility During Assessment	16
Ethical Testing Practices	17
Standardization	17
Test Security	17
Step 5: Evaluate and Improve Use of Accessibility Supports in Instruction and Assessment	18
Questions To Guide Evaluation of Accessibility Supports Use at the School or System Level	18
Ouestions To Guide Evaluation at the Student Level	

Page intentionally left blank.



: A change in a test administration that alters how a student takes or responds to the assessment. The accommodations allowed on the state assessments are grouped into four broad categories: Presentation, Response, Setting, and Scheduling. Accommodations do not change what the assessment is designed to measure, nor do they dilute the meaning of the resulting scores. Accommodations are designed to provide equity, not advantage, for students with disabilities and English Learners. They do not, however, reduce learning expectations. There are two types of accommodations.

- 1. *standard accommodations* provide access to the assessment without altering the construct measured by the assessment.
- 2. conditional accommodations are more expansive accommodations that provide access for students with more severe disabilities or limited English proficiency that would not be able to access the assessment to demonstrate their achievement without such assistance. Conditional accommodations may only be provided to students who meet specified eligibility criteria. State Board Rule restricts this accommodation to a small percentage of students.

practices that are often included in test administration manuals (e.g., minimizing distractions).

: Embargoed data are considered all summary results including state, system, and school results and shall not be discussed at public meetings or released to the public or the media by districts until they have been publicly released by the state. This public release is generally made by the State School Superintendent. Local superintendents and STCs are notified of the public release of data. Data that have been publicly released to the general public and media sources on www.gadoe.org are not embargoed. student data such as Individual Student Reports (ISRs) and Class Rosters may be used for internal district operations, including program and instructional planning for students and are not considered embargoed information. In addition, student scores and ISRs may be shared with individual parents/guardians per local policy decisions.

: Under ESSA, an English language assessment must be given annually to all English Learners to measure their level of English proficiency. The test must measure competence in both social and academic language.

Refers to students whose native language is not English and who are eligible for services based on the results of the state-approved English language screening instrument and, if warranted, additional assessments as specified in SBOE Rule 160-4-5-.02 Language Assistance: Programs for English Learners.

: Refers to coding on assessments for students who have exited the ESOL program in the past four years. Coding for the purposes of Student Record for students having exited from the ESOL program is defined by Data Collections.

Refers to coding on assessments for students who have exited the ESOL program in the past four years. Coding for the purposes of Student Record for students having exited from the ESOL program is defined by Data Collections. ELs are coded in Student Record as EL-1 for the first year after exit and EL-2 for the second year after exit. Beyond the monitoring phase, the third year after exit students are coded EL-3, then EL-4 for the fourth year after exit. At the end of the fourth-year post-exit, the student will be coded as a former EL, EL-F

Georgia Department of Education Page 3 of 63 June 2021 All Rights Reserved Students who do not have an identified disability or EL status. Although we understand that students with disabilities, ELs, and ELs with disabilities are also general education students, we use this term as a simple way to refer to student who does not have a disability, are not identified as an EL, or who are not identified as an EL with a disability.

Testing anomaly that warrants nullifying scores.

Testing anomaly that warrants a report and coding, but test scores stand. An invalidation may be necessary following the review of a reported irregularity.

: Competence in the areas of listening, speaking, reading, writing, and comprehension.

Testing anomaly, usually related to an ineligible conditional accommodation, that warrants nullifying scores.

: A coding used for instances in which a student was present for testing and provided the opportunity to do so but was unable to test. A parental/student refusal to take a state assessment is not an allowable use of PTNA.

To write/record student responses, in the manner described in this Handbook, on an answer document or online test form as prescribed in an IEP, IAP/504, or EL/TPC.

: Clearly described assessment procedures for assessment administration.

: A test designed with specific psychometric properties which is administered and scored following a prescribed procedure so that resulting scores carry the same meaning.

students are eligible to receive services identified through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, or English Learner/Testing Participation Committee (EL/TPC).

academic levels and are aligned with content and achievement standards, curriculum, and instruction.

Both federal and state laws also require that all students with disabilities be administered assessments intended to hold schools accountable for the academic achievement of students. IEP and IAP team members must actively engage in a planning process that ensures the participation of students with disabilities in mandated assessment programs in one of three ways:

- in the general assessment program with no accommodations, in the general assessment program with accommodations, or
- **x** in the alternate assessment programs for students with significant cognitive disabilities.

In addition, IEP, IAP, and EL/TPC team members must include the provision of accommodations as needed to facilitate student access to grade. level instruction and to state assessments.

establishes the minimum standards, and does not prohibit systems, schools, or teachers from adding material and/or content.

The use of a universally designed approach to assessment development and implementation is critical to promote accessibility for all students. Current technology enables educators to introduce computer-based instruction and assessment accessibility supports that facilitate individualized educational processes. The purpose of these supports is to reduce or eliminate the effects of barriers that prevent students from demonstrating what they know and can do.

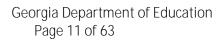
. Instead, accessibility supports administrative procedures, universal tools and accommodations empower students with a multitude of choices, enabling them to access instructional and assessment content effectively.

These individualized approaches to accessibility also place greater responsibility on educator teams and individuals who make decisions about which specific supports students need and should receive among a variety of accessibility choices.

Accessibility supports provided to a student during state assessments must also be provided during classroom instruction 11.04 Tftl TJETQq0.00000912 0 61g(u)3(st)9()9(al)-7(so)5()9rsupports provided to a s

when a tool may be appropriate and useful. Making connections between learning strategies used during instruction and similar universal accessibility tools available on the assessment also may help students decide which tools are appropriate and when to use them.

Accommodations are changes in the administration of an assessment in terms of how the student takes or responds to the assessment. Broad categories of accommodations include presentation, response, setting, and scheduling. Accommodations do not change the construct intended to be measured by the assessment or the meaning of the resulting scores. Accommodations are designed to provide equity, not advantage or reduce learning expectations, for students with disabilities.





Administration policy, protocols, and eligibility guidance are provided in the **Student Assessment Handbook**, **Accessibility & Accommodations Manual**, and related Test Administration Manuals and training opportunities.

Table 3 Georgia Milestones Allowable Accommodations

1.	Preferential seating	S	
2.	Special education classroom	S	
3.	Small group	S	
4.	Individual administration	S	
5.	Individual or study carrel	S	

Georgia Department of Education Page 21 of 63 June 2021 All Rights Reserved

7 * * 7 [7 7]

24. Brailler (manual or electronic); device with grammar and spell checks disabled; Internet disabled	S	
25. Abacus (allowed for students with visual impairments only)	S	

26. Basic function calculator or adapted basic calculator (e.g., Braille or talking 3 105.17 658.51 Tm0 G[(3ETQ.-Tf1 0 0 1 408.41 683.98 Tm0 G[(\$)]V



¿Llamaste para reservar? Have you phoned to make a reservation? or identical: idéntico, adj. Her dress was identical to mine. Su vestido era id

Table 7 Georgia Milestones Allowable Accommodations for English Learners

1. E	ESOL classroom			

2. Small group

The preferred method of administration for this conditional accommodation is the screen reader. Where a human reader delivers the accommodation, examiners must adhere to directions provided in the posted Read-Aloud Guidelines.

On rare occasions, a student may require an accommodation that is not listed in this **Accessibility & Accommodations Manual** or the **Student Assessment Handbook**. If a unique situation arises and an individual student requires an accommodation that is not in this manual, approval must be sought from the GaDOE Assessment Division prior to the use of the accommodations

Large print	Large print/Large font
Magnification devices	Magnification devices
Braille	Braille
Tactile graphics	Human reader
Human reader	Screen reader
Screen reader (Text-to-Speech)	Assistive technology (spelling and gramma
Braille notes, outlines, and instruct	ions check disabled)
Descriptive video	
Talking materials	
Express response to a scribe throug	
Type on or speak to word processo	
Type on brailler or note taking devi	
Speak into audio recording device	check disabled)
Use calculation devices (e.g., talkin	
enlarged keys, abacus)	Tactile manipulatives
Use personal note taker	Abacus
	Use calculator
Change location so student does no	~
others	distract others
Change location to increase physica	
Change location to access special e	
	equipment
Extended time	Extended time

Sign language

Audio amplification devices

Scr@@qf@1d@7 95.1111116.1 210.77 Tm0 g0 G[()] TJE

Written notes, outlines, and instructions

Videotape and descriptive video

Provide advanced organizers and outlines of

lectures for student to follow

Use gestures (e.g., point to materials)

Use short segment test booklets (when available) Allow for multiple or frequent breaks Schedule tests in the morning	Allow for multiple or frequent breaks Change testing schedule
Cue student to begin working and stay on task Change testing schedule or order of subtests Limit reading periods Schedule activities requiring more seat time in the morning and more hands-on and physical activities in the afternoon Divide long-term assignments	

seating).

demonstrate learning.

give students an unfair advantage.

@h, IAP/504, or EL/TPC plan.

accommodations that can be used as both instructional and assessment accommodations.

Where, When, Who, and How of providing accommodations.

as appropriate or as necessary.

safe.

may also be allowed. Decisions should be made on a case-by-case basis, keeping in mind the type of accommodations being provided, the disability involved, and the type of test. For example, if a reader or scribe is used, double time may be appropriate. Specifying unlimited time is not appropriate or feasible. Test sessions may not cross over days and should be completed prior to the end of the school day.

Class List	
Classes	Accommodations

This questionnaire was adapted from **A Student s Guide to the IEP** by the National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities. Retrieved July 28, 2005.

Directions: This Logistics Planning Checklist can be used in the planning and implementation of assessment accommodations for students. Use the checklist by indicating Y (Yes), N (No), or NA (Not Applicable).

Α			
1.	° '@h @h '-Ouh#'		
2.	Students use accommodations regularly and evaluates use.		
3.	A master accommodations plan/data base listing assessment accommodation		
	needs for all students tested is updated regularly.		
4.	Special test editions are ordered for individual students based on information		
	contained in master accommodations plan (e.g., Braille, large print).		
5.	Test examiners/proctors receive a list of accommodation needs for students		
	they will supervise (list comes from master accommodations plan/database).		
6.	Adult supervision is arranged and test examiners receive training for each		
	student receiving accommodations in small group or individual settings,		
7	including extended time (with substitutes available).		
7.	For students requiring a paper/pencil administration, trained readers, scribes,		
	and sign language interpreters are arranged for individual students (with		
0	substitutes available) and provided room locations with rosters.		
8.	Special equipment is arranged and checked for correct operation (e.g., calculator, word processor with spell and grammar check disabled).		
	(e.g., calculator, word processor with spell and granninal check disabled).		
	All oligible students receive accommodations as determined by their IED		
9.	All eligible students receive accommodations as determined by their IEP, IAP/504, EL/TPC plan.		
10.	Provision of accommodations is recorded by test administrator.		
	Providers of accommodations are available as needed (e.g., interpreters,		
11.	readers, scribes)		
12.	Plans are made to replace defective equipment.		

structure and content, particularly in the area of organization, grammar, and mechanics. This process took approximately one week. On July 2019, the manual was approved for publishing.

The Accessibility & Accommodations Manual supports the work that the GaDOE is doing to ensure that all students have appropriate access in instruction and assessment to demonstrate their understanding of the knowledge, concepts, and skills inherit in the state-adopted content standards. Consequently, the manual will be reviewed annually and updated as necessary to ensure that content, policies, and procedures remain current. The committee understands that production and distribution are not the end of the process, but rather the beginning of a cycle of regular revisions.

Accessibility & Accommodations Manual

A review of the Accessibility and Accommodations Manual was conducted over the course of three months (April 2020 July 2020) by a committee of staff members from the Georgia Department of - 8) \ - These staff members represented the Assessment Administration Division, Special Education Services and Supports Division, and English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Division. The lead developer (Assessment Specialist for Georgia Milestones Assessment System) was primarily responsible for overseeing the work from beginning to end and ensuring that review of the manual followed a fixed, step-by-step sequence of activities or course of action.

The purpose of the comprehensive review was to take an in-depth look at existing policies and procedures to:

determine if the purpose and goal of the manual is still being met,

determine whether changes are required to improve the effectiveness or clarity of policy and procedures,

ensure that appropriate monitoring and ongoing review of the manual is occurring as indicated in the development plan, and

make updates to the accommodations chart.

A thorough log was maintained to outline the review process as well as to track the status of the review at various stages throughout the process. Annual updates will ensure that appropriate revisions are made in response to changes in applicable laws, technology, and expected purpose and use of the manual. A thorough description of the review process is discussed below.

The Accessibility & Accommodations Manual was initially reviewed by the Assessment Administration division of the GaDOE, specifically the Director and two Assessment Specialists. [(-)] TJETQq0.00000912 0 612 79

The first collaborative effort involved soliciting feedback from members of the Special Education										
0	. O	.7	'h)	•	'h	Ū	8	·@	
								tee was asked		
manual in its entirety; provide feedback regarding accuracy and relevancy of content and mechanics,										
particularly within the allowable accommodations chart and appendices (i.e., Fact Sheets, Teacher										
Tools);	and, where a	appropri	ate, to a	nswer questi	ons pos	sed b				

During Phase 2 of the process, components of the manual, mainly the allowable accommodations chart, were reviewed by three sub-committees. Their work is described below.

suggestions received from other reviewers. The lead developer maintained a crosswalk of the 8) \-current Accessibility & Accommodations Manual and the proposed rough draft to ensure that information was transferred correctly and to note where edits/additions were made. The lead developer also added more relevant details, rearranged content based on flow and sequencing, and eliminated or replaced information where appropriate. The committee wanted to ensure that the manual did not contain content contrary to current state law, policy, and procedure.

The final review was conducted by the Lead Review Team (Director of Assessment Administration, Assessment Specialist for Georgia Milestones, and the Assessment Specialist for GAA 2.0). Final revisions and edits were made to structure and content, particularly in the area of organization, grammar, and mechanics. In the final editing stages, the decision was made to create separate accommodations chart for each assessment program. The purpose of this reformatting was to improve readability and, ultimately, user experience when use the charts for making instructional and assessment decisions for students. This final edits and review process took approximately one month. The manual was approved for publishing in August 2020.

The Accessibility & Accommodations Manual supports the work that the GaDOE is doing to ensure that all students have appropriate access in instruction and assessment to demonstrate their understanding of the knowledge, concepts, and skills inherit in the state-adopted content standards. Consequently, the manual will be reviewed annually and updated as necessary to ensure that content, policies, and procedures remain current. The GaDOE understands that production and distribution are not the end of the process, but rather the beginning of a cycle of regular revisions.

The IEP team has participated in training and guidance regarding student participation in state mandated assessments that includes the information below:
Under 34 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 300.320(a)(6) and [O.C.G.A § 20-2-281], if the IEP team determines that the student will take GAA the IEP team may provide additional summary statements of why the student cannot participate in the Georgia Milestones Assessment System, with or without allowable accommodations, and why the alternate assessment is appropriate for the student, including that all of the eligibility criteria are met.
Additional Summary Statements (if necessary):
The decision to administer GAA is based on multiple sources of measurable, objective evidence, including, but not limited to current IEP
PLAAFP statements, goals and/or objectives, report cards, progress reports, work samples, teacher observations, Full and Individual Evaluations (FIE), standardized achievement test results, and classroom, district, and statewide assessment results. This decision is not based
essment.
The decision to administer GAA is made by the IEP team, not administratively based on federal accountability requirements which limit the

number of students taking an alternate assessment who can be counted as proficient in CCRPI performance calculations. Although GAA is intended for a small number of students, the proficiency cap does not limit the number of students receiving special education services who

may take the alternate assessment.

Accessibility & Accommodations Manual This document provides information resulting from changes to the 2021-2022 Accessibility & Accommodations Manual