



GUIDE TO ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

San Antonio Academy strives to serve all of its students. Academy students who have a diagnosed cognitive or physical difference impacting learning may be eligible for consideration for academic accommodations. The purpose of accommodations is to support students in becoming effective and independent learners. Academic accommodations do not guarantee success or provide an unfair advantage.

Although SAA strives to support students with different learning abilities, SAA classrooms are not a therapeutic environment. San Antonio Academy does not employ specialists such as dyslexia therapists, behavioral interventionists, or speech-language therapists. If parents choose to utilize outside specialized practitioners, it may be possible to coordinate therapy during the school day by contacting the Director of Student Services.

For a student to be considered for educational accommodations, the office of Student Services must receive a full report of a psycho-educational evaluation with a current diagnosis and explanation of how the disability impacts the student's school performance. The office of Student Services will use the report, as well as input from teachers and parents, to determine which accommodations SAA can reasonably provide.

Generally, testing for educational accommodations expires after a three-year period. In order to continue to be eligible for accommodations after the expiration date, the student must be tested again. SAISD offers testing free of charge.

An evaluator's recommendation that a student should receive specific accommodations does not guarantee they will be granted. Some common accommodations include:

- *Extended Time:* The student may receive up to 50% extended time on graded assignments. Students are expected to finish tests on the same day it is given.
- *Preferential Classroom Seating:* The student's seat is placed in a location that is most beneficial for his learning in the classroom. Teachers maintain discretion to move a student who abuses this privilege or becomes disruptive. This accommodation does not allow students to leave the presence of a teacher for testing.
- *Spelling Assistance:* The student may be eligible for modified spelling expectations or use a dictionary or other appropriate method to assist in spelling on written assignments. This accommodation does not provide assistance on assignments such as spelling tests.
- *Assistance with Note-Taking:* A copy of class notes will be made available to the student to supplement his own notes (he is expected to take notes). Teachers may provide note-taking assistance in a number of ways, including reducing writing by providing a teacher-provided template taken by an assigned classmate from the teacher's own notes, or the teacher may post the document in Google Classroom.
- *Use of Audiobooks:* The student will be allowed to use audiobooks for a percentage of his independent reading requirement (some resources are available through the SAA library, others must be purchased by the student, e.g., Learning Ally, Audible).
- *Use of a Four-Stroke Calculator:* The student may have limited access to use a calculator in math and science classes when computation is not the skill being assessed.

Tutoring: Students should not miss core academic classes for tutoring. A student who would like to work with an outside tutor or therapist on the school campus must receive permission from the office of Student Services or Head of School. Generally, all tutoring should be done after school.

Accommodations for Concussions: If a doctor recommends academic accommodations for a student due to a concussion, the school will provide reasonable accommodations for up to three weeks if needed. Academic accommodations will end once a student has been medically cleared to return to sports or other activities that carry a risk of injury to the head.