DISTRICTWIDE AND STATEWIDE ASSESSMENTS OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

The Board of Education recognizes the importance of offering access and appropriate testing accommodations to eligible students so that they can participate in assessment programs on an equal basis with their nondisabled peers. State Guidance for testing accommodations can be found in Test Access and Accommodations for Students with Disabilities – Policy and Tools to Guide Decision-Making and Implementation. It is available on the SED website at: http://www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed

Testing Accommodations

Testing accommodations provide an opportunity for students with disabilities to:

• Participate in the instructional and assessment program;
• Demonstrate their strengths, knowledge and skills without being restricted by their disability; and
• Provide an accurate measure of the standards being assessed so that appropriate instruction and services can be provided.

Testing accommodations are changes made in the administration of the test in order to remove obstacles to the test-taking process that are presented by the disability without changing the constructs being tested. Testing accommodations are neither intended nor permitted to: alter the construct being measured or invalidate the results, provide an unfair advantage for students with disabilities over students taking the test under standard conditions or substitute for knowledge or abilities that the student has not attained.

The Committee on Special Education, the Subcommittee on Special Education or the Committee on Preschool Special Education is responsible for recommending the appropriate test accommodations and including those recommendations on the student’s Individualized Education Program (IEP), Individualized Education Services Program (IESP) or Service Plan (SP). If it is determined that a student should participate in alternative assessments instead of the standard statewide or districtwide tests, the CSE must indicate the reasons for doing so on the IEP, IESP or SP. The 504 Team will include the appropriate test accommodations as part the 504 plan.

The recommendations will be reviewed annually by the CSE, CSE subcommittee, CPSE or 504 team. The Board acknowledges the importance of integrating the assessment program with the instructional program and, to that end, encourages effective communication among district staff so that implementation is consistent and fair. The goal is to provide effective assessments that allow students to benefit from their educational program.

Adoption date: December 22, 2020