

WESLEYAN SCHOOL

Wesleyan School Student Academic Accommodation Programs Policy Lower School

Wesleyan School offers a limited number of accommodations to students who qualify. These accommodations are outlined in a Wesleyan Learning Profile (LP) that will be written by Nancy Jones, LS Dean of Counseling and Student Services, and signed by the parent.

Accommodations will be available to Wesleyan students who have submitted the following required documentation:

- A complete psychoeducational evaluation completed by a licensed psychologist or school psychologist within the last five years.
- **BOTH** Achievement Testing **AND** IQ/Aptitude Data completely listed within evaluation
- A specific DSM (*Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*) diagnosis
 - All evaluations need to have a specific DSM (Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders) diagnosis in order to receive accommodations at Wesleyan. This is in compliance with our Wesleyan Accommodation Plan Policy, which is in compliance with the College Board (the governing board of PSAT, SAT, and AP exams) accommodation policies.
- Recommendations for services/accommodations for the classroom
 - Because emotional and mood disorders (such as anxiety and depression) are diagnoses that can be remediated through avenues such as therapy/counseling, these diagnoses will require annual renewals comprised of two elements. The first element should include documentation from the doctor/psychologist describing the current impact of the student's disability as it affects their academic performance and should document the need for ongoing accommodations. The second element should include documentation of therapeutic efforts provided to address the student's needs (examples could include relaxation therapy, a class on test taking strategies, tutoring, etc.).

Wesleyan will offer accommodations within the classroom and reserves the right to adjust offered accommodations based on the needs of our students and school. Accommodations are only offered if they are consistent with specific recommendations included in the student's psychoeducational evaluation. The following are the approved accommodations at Wesleyan School:

Physical Accommodations

- Preferential Seating (near the teacher, between well-focused students, away from distractions i.e. windows, hallways, etc.)
- Extra Seat or Table Space for "expanding" work area, when possible

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Instructional Accommodations

- Extended time on standardized tests and additional assignments when possible (not to exceed 50%). Extended time is available on Math Matters quizzes in grades 1-4; please see addendum for details.
- Permission to receive notes as a supplemental source of information to the student's own notetaking. The source of notes can be teacher or peer notes and is determined by the teacher of the course. These notes cannot be used on tests or quizzes.
- No penalties will be given for spelling errors on in-class writing assignments, essays, tests, exams, and quizzes. Assignments will be graded on content. When grading content, the teacher should be able to identify/sound out the word as it is written. If the teacher cannot, the student will be asked to identify the word. If the student cannot identify the word, it will be considered incorrect.
 - This is only granted to K-12 students who have been diagnosed (by a licensed private or school psychologist) with a reading disorder/dyslexia, written expression disorder, or a phonological processing disability, and whose written psycho-educational report recommends a spelling accommodation.
 - Spelling errors noted in MCL courses may receive a deduction of a maximum of five percent.

Behavioral Accommodations

- Provide a cueing procedure class wide/private agreed upon with the student to help maintain focus.
- Allow for additional appropriate movement throughout the classroom/brain break, when possible.

It is understood that these accommodations are offered whenever possible and as consistently as possible. Below is some additional information regarding the approved accommodations:

Physical Accommodation: Our teachers will make every effort to provide preferential seating to students who qualify. Preferential does not necessarily mean "front row;" teachers may seat these students near the teacher's desk, or away from the door/traffic area, or close to where the teacher is during most of a class. "Preferential" is at the discretion of the teacher.

Instructional Accommodations: In the Lower School, we will allow extended time to students who qualify. This extended time can apply to standardized tests (grades 3 and 4) as well as classroom tests. Teachers provide extended time in different ways. Your child's teacher will let you know the best way to provide extended time. Please note that extended time is applied differently to the weekly Math Matters quizzes (grades 1-4). A copy of the Math Matters extended time policy is available at your request. As a parent you may opt out of having your child receive extended time for standardized tests.

With regard to peer/teacher notes as a supplemental source of information, please note that students must make every effort to take their own notes in classes that require note taking. If the student is making an effort and is then in need of notes to fill in gaps/supplement what he/she has written down, the teacher will make sure that the student receives some form of supplementation. These notes may not be used during assessments.

One additional type of accommodation Wesleyan will allow is for Lower School students to receive services from our approved on-campus Orton Gillingham tutors, Occupational Therapist, and Speech/Language/Reading clinicians during the school day. These services require additional fees and are the responsibility of the parent. To receive services during the school day, parents must sign a release to allow the school to have a copy of any tests/test results performed by the OT or Speech/Language/OG clinicians.

If you have any questions regarding accommodations, please contact Dr. Nancy Jones, LS Dean of Counseling and Student Services and Director of Counseling, at njones@wesleyanschool.org.