

Universal Supports and Accommodations available for ACCESS testing

Accommodations decisions are made by a student's educational support team (IEP, 504, or Title II of the ADA). They should never be assigned unilaterally by an individual educator outside of the IEP process. Accommodations should be chosen based on individual student need.

Consider these questions when assigning accommodations:

- Does the student use the accommodation regularly in the classroom? If not, consider carefully whether an accommodation is truly needed for testing. Accommodations should not be provided for the first time in a testing situation. Students should be given opportunities to practice the accommodation prior to the assessment.
 - Does the accommodation address the student's need? Accommodations do not reduce expectations or compensate for a lack of knowledge, skills, or prior instruction. The sole purpose of an accommodation is to ensure that a disability does not prevent a demonstration of English language proficiency. "More is better" is not the right approach. Providing unnecessary accommodations can negatively impact student performance.
- The [WIDA Accessibility & Accommodations Manual](#) is the main resource for ACCESS accommodations. Page numbers included in the lists are referring to this manual.
- More information about Accommodations and Supports can be found in the [Guidance for Universal Supports and Accommodations for Minnesota Statewide Assessments.](#)

Universal Tools

Audio aids
Color preferences
Highlighters, colored pencils, or crayons
Keyboard navigation
Line guide or tracking tool
Low-vision aids or magnification devices
Scratch paper

Information on Universal Tools is found on pg. 5-8 of the WIDA Accessibility & Accommodations Manual

Notes:
> Scratch paper is **not** allowed for the Speaking domain
> Number 2 pencils **must** be used to indicate responses on paper tests

Accommodation/Support	Code	Listen	Read	Speak	Write	IEP or 504 Plan Required	More info	Notes
Adaptive & Specialized Equipment or Furniture	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	No	pg. 4	
Braille	BR	✓ paper only	✓ paper only	✓ paper only	✓ paper only	Yes	pg. 11	Now includes Speaking domain (new for Winter 2026)
Extended Speaking Test Response Time	ES			✓		Yes	pg. 12	Must be selected in WIDA AMS prior to testing to provide in online test
Extended testing of a test domain over multiple days	EM	✓	✓	✓	✓	Yes	pg. 13	Must be approved by MDE each year - request goes through DAC

Accommodation/ Support	Code	Listen	Read	Speak	Write	IEP or 504 Plan Required	More info	Notes
Extended Testing Time	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	No	pg. 3	Available to all students - Students must complete a domain the same day they started it
Interpreter Signs Test Directions in ASL	SD	✓	✓	✓	✓	Yes	pg. 15	Translation of actual test items is not allowed - Video versions now available in WIDA Secure Portal
In-Person Human Reader	IR	✓		✓	✓	Yes	pg. 13	
Large Print	LP	✓ paper only	✓ paper only	✓ paper only	✓ paper only	Yes	pg. 16	Materials are printed in 18-point font
Low Vision Script	LV	✓ KG only	✓ KG only	✓ KG only	✓ KG only	Yes	pg. 16	New 2025-26
Manual Control of Item Audio	MC	✓		✓	✓	Yes	pg. 17	Must be selected in WIDA AMS prior to testing to provide in online test
Recording Device and Transcription	RD				✓	Yes	pg. 20	

Accommodation/ Support	Code	Listen	Read	Speak	Write	IEP or 504 Plan Required	More info	Notes
Repeat In-Person Human Reader	RP	✓		✓	✓	Yes	pg. 15	
Repeat Item Audio	RA	✓		✓	✓	Yes	pg. 18	Must be selected in WIDA AMS prior to testing to provide in online test
Scribe	SR	✓	✓		✓	Yes	pg. 19	Further guidance in Appendix C
Short Segments	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	No	pg. 3	Available to all students - Students must complete a domain the same day they started it
Small Group or Individual Setting	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	No	pg. 4	Available to all students - Individual setting is required for some accommodations
Special Ed. Deferred	SPD	If it is impossible for a student to participate in a domain due to their disability (e.g. the listening domain for a student who is deaf), the ELL and IEP team can indicate SPD for that domain within the student's IEP				Yes	Link	

Accommodation/ Support	Code	Listen	Read	Speak	Write	IEP or 504 Plan Required	More info	Notes
Specific Setting/Location	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	No	pg. 4	Must be administered at school (exemption for Homebound)
Supervised Breaks	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	No	pg. 3	Available to all students
Test Administered in a Non-School Setting	NS	✓	✓	✓	✓	Yes	pg. 20	
Test Format: Paper	-	Mixed-mod is not allowed: either all domains administered online or paper				Yes		Materials are printed in 12-point font
Translated Directions	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	No		- Available in 16 languages (New: ASL video translations) - For Grades 4-12 - Found in WIDA Secure Portal > Resources
Word Processor or Similar Keyboard Device	WD	✓	✓		✓	Yes	pg. 21	Transcription guidance in Appendix B

WIDA Accessibility & Accommodations Manual is available on the SPPS/REA: ACCESS Test Coordination website under ‘Training’ > ‘WIDA Guides and Manuals’

<https://www.spps.org/about/departments/research-evaluation-assessment/test-coordination/access>

Guidance for Universal Supports and Accommodations for Minnesota Statewide Assessments is available on the SPPS/REA: MCA Test Coordination website under ‘Training’ > ‘Guides and Manuals’ (once published by MDE)

<https://www.spps.org/about/departments/research-evaluation-assessment/test-coordination/mca>