

Universal Supports and Accommodations available for WIDA 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.**](#) ← 25-26 version, will update link with 26-27 version once available
 - [***Best Practices for determining accommodations for students***](#) - WIDA

Universal Supports: available to all students as needed

Administrative Considerations

Test Timing and Scheduling:

- Supervised Breaks
- Shorter Segments
- Extended Testing Time (within the school day)

Test Environment:

- Adaptive & Specialized Equipment or Furniture
- Individual or Small Group Setting
- Specific Seating/Location (within the school)

Information on Administrative Considerations is found on pg. 8 - 10 of the WIDA Accessibility & Accommodations Manual

Notes:

> Students must complete a domain the same day they started it

Universal Tools

Audio aids

Color preferences

Highlighters, colored pencils, or crayons

Keyboard navigation

Line guide or tracking tool

Low-vision aids or magnification devices

Manual Control of item audio (online) ← New!

Scratch paper

Information on Universal Tools is found on pg. 11 - 14 of the WIDA Accessibility & Accommodations Manual

Notes:

> Scratch paper is **not** allowed for the Speaking domain (per MDE)

> Number 2 pencils **must** be used to indicate responses on paper tests

❖ No accommodation is required for the use of AAC Devices or Bluetooth Hearing Aids on ACCESS tests

Additional supports listed on pages 11-20 of the [Guidance for Universal Supports and Accommodations for MN Assessments](#)

Accommodation/ Support	Code	Listen	Read	Speak	Write	IEP or 504 Plan Required	More info	Notes
Assistive Technology	AT	✓ online only	✓ online only	✓ online only	✓ online only	Yes	pg. 17	New 2026-27 Must be selected in WIDA AMS prior to testing to provide in online test
Braille	BR	✓ paper only	✓ paper only	✓ paper only	✓ paper only	Yes	pg. 18	Transcription guidance in Appendix B
Extended Speaking Test Response Time	ES			✓		Yes	pg. 19	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. 20	Must be approved by MDE each year - request goes through DAC
In-Person Human Reader	IR	✓		✓	✓	Yes	pg. 20	
Interpreter Signs Test Directions in ASL	SD	✓	✓	✓	✓	Yes	pg. 22	Translation of actual test items is not allowed - Video versions now available in WIDA Secure Portal

Accommodation /Support	Code	Listen	Read	Speak	Write	IEP or 504 Plan Required	More info	Notes
Large Print	LP	✓ paper only	✓ paper only	✓ paper only	✓ paper only	Yes	pg. 22	Materials are printed in 18-point font Transcription guidance in Appendix B
Low Vision Script	LV	✓	✓	✓	✓	Yes	pg. 23	Kindergarten ONLY
Manual Control of Item Audio	MC	✓ paper only		✓ paper only	✓ paper only	Yes	pg. 24	NEW: only for paper > Online now embedded as a part of Universal Design
Recording Device and Transcription	RD				✓	Yes	pg. 25	
Repeat In-Person Human Reader	RP	✓		✓	✓	Yes	pg. 26	
Repeat Item Audio	RA	✓		✓	✓	Yes	pg. 27	Must be selected in WIDA AMS prior to testing to provide in online test
Scribe	SR	✓	✓		✓	Yes	pg. 28	Further guidance in Appendix C
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 & 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
Speech-to-Text	STT				✓ online only	Yes	pg. 29	New 2026-27 Must be selected in WIDA AMS prior to testing to provide in online test
Test Administered in a Non-School Setting	NS	✓	✓	✓	✓	Yes	pg. 29	
Test Format: Paper	-	Mixed-mod is not allowed: either all domains administered online or paper				Yes – per MDE		Materials are printed in 12-point font
Translated Directions	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	No > More info. in the Guidance for Universal Supports and Accommodations for MN Assessments pg. 18		- 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. 30	Transcription guidance in Appendix B

WIDA Accessibility & Accommodations Manual is available on the SPSS/REA: Accommodations and Supports website under ‘WIDA ACCESS’

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

Guidance for Universal Supports and Accommodations for Minnesota Statewide Assessments is available on the SPSS/REA: Accommodations and Supports website under ‘WIDA ACCESS’ or ‘MCA’ (once published by MDE)

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