

Alternate Assessments for Students With Disabilities

All students with disabilities are required to participate in state assessments as determined annually by the student's IEP and/or Section 504 team. The IEP or 504 Plan developed for a disabled student must specify the manner in which the student will participate in the state tests.

A. Regular Assessments With Accommodations

For each student with a disability who takes a test that is administered to nondisabled students, the School shall include that information in the student's IEP or document that information in writing for a Section 504 student ("504 Plan"), and provide the student with any appropriate accommodations pursuant to this policy. Any accommodations shall meet all of the following criteria specified below:

1. The accommodation is specified in the student's IEP or 504 Plan and is provided for classroom and schoolwide tests.
2. The accommodation does not change the content or structure of a test.
3. The accommodation does not change what type of knowledge or skill that a test is intended to measure.
4. The accommodation does not change or enhance the student's response as to what type of knowledge or skill is intended to be assessed, but it facilitates how the response is provided or assessed.

B. Alternative Assessments

A student's IEP and/or 504 team may excuse a student with a disability from taking any particular test that is administered to nondisabled students during any school year. An excused student with a disability shall participate instead in an alternate assessment approved by the Ohio Department of Education pursuant to federal law. Each excuse from participating in general education tests administered to nondisabled students and the reason for the excusal shall be documented in a student's IEP or 504 Plan. The reasons for excusal shall state why the particular alternate assessment selected is appropriate for the student and why the student could not participate in the general education test. Accommodations may be used in accordance with the criteria provided in Part A of this Policy, unless specifically provided by the Ohio Department of Education.

Any student excused from taking a general education test who nevertheless wishes to take a general education test, may do so, and if that student meets at least the proficient level of performance, the student's transcript will show that the performance standard was met. Accommodations provided in accordance with Part A of this policy may be used when students elect to take a general education test.

Any student with a disability who is excused from taking a required test and instead takes an alternate assessment, may be provided accommodations as determined by the student's IEP team, unless the accommodation is prohibited by the Ohio Department of Education.

Required state test pass rates used to determine school and building performance include, to the maximum extent allowed by state and federal law, all the results of those who take tests without any accommodation; those who take tests with accommodations that meet the criteria of this policy; and those who are excused under this policy and instead take alternative assessments.

Any student with a disability who otherwise has completed an IEP program but has not received a diploma due to not having passed a required test may take any test required for graduation at any time it is administered in any school.

R.C. 3301.0711; OAC 3301-13-03.