



2013 OSSE Testing Accommodations Training Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

General Questions

Where can we find a copy of the Accommodations Manual? The OSSE Testing Accommodations Manual is posted to <http://osse.dc.gov/publication/testing-accommodations-manual-and-policyaccommodations-manual-training>

Where is the accommodations PowerPoint located? The 2013 Accommodations PowerPoint is posted to <http://osse.dc.gov/publication/2013-dc-cas-tools> .

When students are provided extra time to complete an assessment, must the extra time be provided on the same day? Or can it be provided on a make-up testing day? Yes, extended time must be provided on the same day. Testing sessions must be completed in one session, even though extended.

Can English language learners, Students with Disabilities, and students with 504 plans who have the same accommodation test together? Yes, students receiving the same accommodations can test together.

Please clarify the read aloud accommodation. Students with disabilities and English language learners who are eligible for the read aloud accommodation may have the question and answer choice read aloud for Math, Science, and Health. The Composition prompt may be also be read aloud to students. The Composition passage cannot be read aloud to students.

There is both a proctor and an administrator in the room. Does it matter which one performs the dictated response and where? Dictated Response is when the student will state their constructed response and a scribe will transcribe to the answer document. The scribe must not edit or alter student's work in any way and must record word for word exactly what the student has dictated. This accommodation must be administered individually in a separate setting from those testing without this accommodation.

DC CAS must be administered by the Test Administrator. A test administrator is a certified professional employee of the District of Columbia Public School or public charter school (e.g., teacher, guidance counselor, school administrator, librarian, or other District or school employee). Please defer to the State Test Security Guidelines for additional information <http://osse.dc.gov/publication/district-columbia-state-test-security-guidelines-and-test-integrity-forms> .



English Language Learners

Is there a list of approved electronic dictionaries for ELLs? Electronic dictionaries are not an allowable accommodation for DC CAS.

Which ELLs are eligible to receive the read aloud accommodation? ELLs levels 1 & 2 only.

For the Composition section that 7th and 10th graders will take, the ELLs accommodation says: Simplification of the writing prompt. What is meant by simplification exactly can we simplify the prompt in writing? Or is it only simplified orally? Simplification is allowable for directions (English only) can be provided orally or written. Simplification of the writing prompt can be provided orally only, and should not provide any additional clarification that can be used as hints.

Can Levels 3 and 4 ELLs have the questions read aloud to them? ELLs levels 3 and 4 are only eligible for the directions to be read aloud.

Can ELLm students receive accommodations? Year 1 and Year 2 Monitored ELLs are not eligible to receive accommodations.

Is it permissible for ELLs level 1 and 2 to receive breaks between subtests? Yes, ELLs levels 1 & 2 can receive breaks between subtests.

Students With Disabilities

What Is IDEA? Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (2004).

According to SEDS, students with disabilities are allowed to have the accommodation of having the “entire passage read” or “parts of the passage read” on the IEP and DC CAS, however, it does invalidate their score on the DC CAS. How does this affect the student and the school? Can they still receive this passage read aloud accommodation? The read aloud accommodation is not permissible on the ELA portion of DC CAS. Students receiving this accommodation will be counted as a non-participant for accountability purposes.

If a student has a use of a calculator as an accommodation, is a multiplication table allowed instead of a calculator? What about fraction manipulatives? Are these considered non-standard? Manipulatives and multiplication tables are not allowable accommodations on the DC CAS. They will not be approved as non-standard accommodations.

What is the difference between oral response and dictated response? Oral Response is when the student will state the response to a multiple choice question with a scribe filling in the answers on a scannable answer sheet.

Oral Response is an allowable accommodation for students with disabilities on the Reading, Math, Science, and Health Portions of the DC CAS.

Dictated Response is when the student will state their constructed response and a scribe will transcribe to the answer document. The scribe must not edit or alter student's work in any way and must record word for word exactly what the student has dictated. Scribes may request clarification from the student about the use of capitalization, punctuation and spelling key words. And must allow the student to review and edit what the scribe has written. A scribe records while the student is dictating and edits while in front of the student.

For students with a dictated response to examiner accommodation have to use the accommodation, and do they have to test individually? The IEP team determines which accommodations students use in the classroom and on assessments. If a student receives this accommodation, it would have to be administered individually.