



COLORADO
Department of Education

Unique Accommodation Fact Sheet

What are Accommodations?

Accommodations are practices and procedures that provide equitable access during instruction and assessment for students who have a documented need, including students with a disability and English learners. In order to use accommodations on state testing, accommodations must be documented in the student's IEP, 504, or EL plan.

Students may only utilize accommodations for testing that are specifically listed in the IEP or 504 plan. Accommodations may not be provided based on a category of disability, level of instruction, environment, or other group characteristic. No accommodations may be provided to a student merely because he or she is a member of an instructional group. Responsibility for confirming the need and appropriateness of an accommodation rests with the school-based staff involved with each student's instructional program. In addition to accommodations for students with disabilities, English learner accommodations are available to students learning English as documented in EL plans.

What are Unique Accommodations?

Unique accommodations are accommodations that potentially impacts the test content being measured. Only a very limited number of students who meet specific criteria may use certain accommodations on the CMAS math and ELA assessments or ACCESS Reading and Writing domains and receive a valid score. These accommodations include reading of the reading test, scribing the constructed response portion of the writing test, and using a calculator on non-calculator sections of the math assessment.

Unique accommodations must be approved by the CDE Assessment Division prior to use on state assessments. The DAC must securely submit Unique Accommodation Requests (UARs) to CDE through Syncplicity by December 1st for ACCESS and December 15th for CMAS for approval. Supporting data from the current school year must accompany the UAR.

Emergency Accommodations

Emergency accommodations are accommodation provided to students during testing due to unforeseen circumstances. Cases could include students who have a recently-fractured limb (e.g., fingers, hand, arm, wrist, or shoulder); whose only pair of eyeglasses has broken; or a student returning from a serious or prolonged illness or injury.

UAR Information
2019-2020

Accommodations:

- Are available to any student with a documented need
- Are individually determined
- Are not IDEA category specific
- Must be listed in the IEP
- Must be used instructionally and on district assessments on a regular basis

ACCESS UARs

- Auditory Presentation on Reading test
 - Scribe on constructed response on writing test
- Due December 1st**

CMAS UARs

- Auditory Presentation on ELA
 - Scribe on constructed response on ELA
 - Calculator on non-calculator section of math
- Due December 15th**

Next Steps:

- The DAC or classroom teacher downloads the UAR forms from the CDE accommodations training page
- Teachers complete the form and return to the DAC
- The DAC screens the requests for appropriateness
- The DAC completes the spreadsheet located in the UAR folder in Syncplicity. The DAC posts the spreadsheet and the request forms to the UAR folder in Syncplicity.
- When all of the district's UARs are ready for review, the DAC emails CDE's assessment unit:

Assessment_UAR@cde.state.co.us