



Frequently Asked Questions

Is my child using accommodations in the classroom that will be allowed on TCAP?

Some accommodations may be used in instructions but may not be allowed on TCAP. Your child’s educational team can help you understand which accommodations may not be available on the state assessment.

Is my child’s need for the accommodation documented ?

Accommodations for use on the TCAP must be documented in your child’s formal educational plan. The educational team should be regularly evaluating the continued need for accommodations listed in the plan. Sometimes, educational teams select accommodations in a bundle, such as extended time, oral scripts and a different setting. However, your child might only need one of these accommodations. The team has a responsibility to make sure your child is not under — or over — accommodated.

Does my child know how to use the accommodation?

The requirement from the state is the accommodation should be used for at least 3 months before the assessment so your child has time to learn to use the accommodations available to them during testing. Be sure your child is willing to use the accommodation and has used the accommodation regularly before test day.

Links

Colorado Model Content Standards:

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeassess/UAS/OldContentStandards.html>

Colorado Academic Standards:

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeassess/UAS/CoAcademicStandards.html>

Colorado Accommodations Manual Colorado Accommodations Guide for ELs:

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeassess/publications.html>

Sample Assessment Items:

http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeassess/released_items.html



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Accommodations for the Transitional Colorado Assessment Program (TCAP)

Grades 3 - 10
Reading, Writing, and
Mathematics

Grades 5, 8 and 10
Science

Parent Brochure



TCAP Overview and Accommodations

TCAP is a statewide test of how well students have learned the skills in the Colorado Standards. Where the current blueprint allows, items will represent the overlap between the old Colorado Model Standards and the new Colorado Academic Standards. The test items include multiple choice and constructed response. Students take the TCAP in grades 3 through 10.

State law requires all public school students enrolled in grades 3 - 10 must be accounted for regardless of language background or ability. Most students will participate in TCAP using a standard administration.

Based on your child's needs, your child may take one or a combination of the following:

- TCAP without accommodations,
- TCAP with accommodations, or
- CoAlt (the alternative assessment).

Your child's educational team determines how your child participates in statewide testing.

Standard Accommodations

Accommodations are changes in *how* the test is given. These changes allow your child to show what he or she knows without changing *what* is being tested.

Some accommodations your child gets in the classroom are not allowed on TCAP because they change *what* is being tested. For example, using a spell-check or grammar-check when writing. These are not allowed because they interfere with the test's ability to measure your child's skills.

Standard accommodations, do not change what is being tested, and may be used for students on a formal educational plan with permission from the District. The accommodation must be used regularly during classroom instruction, identified on the student's educational plan, and based on the individual needs of the student.

Some examples of standard accommodations include:

- Changes in the way the test items are presented (large print, braille, translated oral scripts)
- Changes in the way students respond to the test items (braille, large #2 pencils)
- Changes in the setting/environment (less students in the room, or taking the test alone)
- Changes in the scheduling of the test (allowing breaks, allowing more time)

Linguistic Accommodations

Some students are identified as English Learners, and are receiving services related to English language acquisition. To help these students access the assessment, linguistic accommodations are available in addition to standard accommodations, based on student need as they progress towards English proficiency.

Nonstandard Accommodations

Some students on an IEP or 504 plan may need unique accommodations. These accommodations may only be used with special approval from the Colorado Department of Education Nonstandard Accommodations Team. The District Assessment Coordinator must make the request annually before December 15.

To be approved, the accommodation must not change what is tested or affect the validity or reliability of the test. As with all accommodations, the requested accommodation must be used regularly during classroom instruction, based on individual student needs and identified on the IEP or 504 plan for use in instruction and on classroom, district and state assessments.