Accommodations for Students with Disabilities and English Language Learners

A collaborative project of the TN Department of Education State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG) and STEP, Inc.

Lori Nixon | Director of Assessment Design | Division of Special Populations and Student Support, TNDOE and SPDG
Beth Smith | Director of East TN Services | STEP, Inc.
SPDG: Overview

- **Purpose:** To provide ALL students with access to high-quality core instruction in the least restrictive environment.
- **Partners:**
  - Centers for Literacy, Education and Employment – UT, Knoxville
  - University of Kentucky Human Development Institute
  - Support and Training for Exceptional Parents (STEP)
- **Process:**
  - SPDG funded Professional Development Activities:
    - Strand One / Strand Two Trainings
      - Three part workshop series (Fall, Winter, Spring)
      - Conducted by district-selected facilitator
      - Audience: School teams from district-selected schools
        - General educator, special educator, administrator
  - Ongoing support:
    - Training:: All participants, Three times / year
    - Communities of Practice: Monthly check-ins
    - Coaching and Modeling: Individual support, based on need
    - Interventionist Support: Individual support, based on need
SPDG Participating Districts

WEST
- Achievement School District
- Bradford Special School District
- Gibson County Special School District
- Trenton Special School District
- Weakley County Schools
- West Carroll Schools

MIDDLE
- Cannon County Schools
- Clarksville-Montgomery County Schools
- Clay County Schools
- Cumberland County Schools
- Dickson County Schools
- Fayetteville City Schools
- Franklin Special School District
- Lawrence County Schools
- Metro Nashville Public Schools
- Murfreesboro City Schools
- Robertson County Schools
- Tullahoma City Schools
- Warren County Schools

EAST
- Alcoa City Schools
- Bradley County Schools
- Cleveland City Schools
- Clinton City Schools
- Elizabethton City Schools
- Hawkins County Schools
- McMinn County Schools
- Rhea County Schools
- Sequatchie County Schools
- Sweetwater City Schools
- White County Schools
STEP, Inc. (Support and Training for Exception Parents, Inc.) is a not for profit organization serving families who have children and youth with disabilities, ages birth through 26.
STEP’s vision is to ensure a brighter future for children and youth in Tennessee, with an emphasis on those with disabilities, special health care needs, and mental health needs.
STEP: Our Services

- Trainings across TN
- Webinars and electronic information
- One-on-one assistance
- IEP/504 preparation
  - Record review and strategy planning
- Some attendance at IEP/504 meetings
- Letter writing help
- Referral to other agencies
- Information and awareness events/conferences
- Conflict resolution: Communication strategies, building relationships

Statewide training, information and referral services to parents of children with disabilities and professional development for school districts to improve family/youth involvement and outcomes.
Learning Objectives

- Parents will understand the purpose of accommodations, the difference between an accommodation and a modification, and how to determine the most appropriate accommodations when planning for a child’s day.
- Understand how to use the information as a tool to support instructional practices and effectively communicate with teachers and administrators about their child’s education.
### Program Participation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Custom Accommodations</th>
<th>Classroom Accommodations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. Reading</td>
<td>• Scribe</td>
<td>• Scribe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Paper version of test</td>
<td>• Paper version of test</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. English/Language Arts</td>
<td>• Scribe</td>
<td>• Assistive technology</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Assistive technology</td>
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<tr>
<td>e. Math</td>
<td>• Scribe</td>
<td>• Assistive technology</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Paper version of test</td>
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<tr>
<td>f. Science</td>
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<tr>
<td>g. Social Studies</td>
<td>• Scribe</td>
<td>• Assistive technology</td>
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<td>• Paper version of test</td>
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<tr>
<td>k. Physical Education</td>
<td>• Pacing - Allow breaks.</td>
<td>• Testing - Additional Time</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Assignments - Additional Time</td>
<td>• Presentation of Subject Matter - Manipulatives</td>
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<tr>
<td>l. Music/Art</td>
<td>• Presentation of Subject Matter - Manipulatives</td>
<td>• Testing - Additional Time</td>
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## Accommodations and Modifications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Accommodation</th>
<th>Modification</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Graphic organizer</td>
<td>• Partially completed graphic organizer with fewer links and less complexity</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Text to speech with the book</td>
<td>• Low level, high interest reading with text to speech</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Template for long division</td>
<td>• Simple division facts with pictures, graphics, manipulative, or number line</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Raised line paper</td>
<td>• Dotted words and letters to trace</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Calculator</td>
<td>• Modified rubric for presentation to include fewer elements and more explicit understandings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Class lecture notes ahead of time</td>
<td>• Essential elements from instruction taught with hands-on materials</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Completed agenda with homework expectations</td>
<td>• Assessed on only a portion of the test or concept</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Sensory break “pass”</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Picture schedule</td>
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<td>• Word processor for writing assignments</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Shortened assignments</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Assignment broken into smaller tasks</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Oral assessment for understandings</td>
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- TN Department of Education
Tennessee TN Ready Information

- Different levels of support
  - Allowable test administration conditions
  - Accessibility Features
  - Accommodations
    - Students with Disabilities
    - English Learners

State/District Tests Accommodations

Accommodations listed must be provided in general and special education classroom instruction, classroom testing, and for the specific assessment(s) listed below.

ACT

ACT - ACT Approved Accommodations

- ACT Approved Accommodations: Time requested - Extended Time - Authorization to test over multiple days
Determining Appropriate Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

1. Is the student using any accommodations during classroom instruction that will not be allowed when taking state or district wide assessment?

2. Are the assessment accommodations selected allowed for the specific assessment?

3. Does the student show a documented need for all selected accommodations?

4. Are all selected accommodations documented in the IEP or 504 Plan?

5. Does the student understand how to use the selected assessment accommodations?

6. Does the school have an advance planning process to ensure the proper implementation of the testing accommodations chosen and documented in my child’s IEP or 504 Plan?
## Tools & Resources

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><a href="https://www.edutopia.org/article/differentiated-instruction-resources">https://www.edutopia.org/article/differentiated-instruction-resources</a></td>
<td>Differentiated Instruction Resource</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.tnstep.org/resources/infoPackets.aspx">http://www.tnstep.org/resources/infoPackets.aspx</a></td>
<td>Accommodations and Modifications and Other Information Packets Other STEP Resources visit <a href="http://www.tnstep.org">www.tnstep.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="https://www.tn.gov/assets/entities/education/attachments/tnready_determining_accommodations_for_swd.pdf">https://www.tn.gov/assets/entities/education/attachments/tnready_determining_accommodations_for_swd.pdf</a></td>
<td>TN Ready – Determining Accommodations</td>
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