

Frequently asked Questions

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

There is no limit to the accommodations a student may use during instruction. Some accommodations used during instruction may not be allowed on TCAP. Accommodations on the state assessment must not invalidate what is being tested. 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?

All accommodations for use on the TCAP must be documented in a formal educational plan that is developed with the student's parent/guardian. The educational team should be regularly evaluating the continued need for the accommodations listed in this plan.

Does my child know how to use the accommodation?

State policy requires accommodations must be used with fidelity during instruction and on classroom and district assessments for at least three (3) months before the assessment. This provides your child an opportunity to learn to use the accommodation. Additionally, this time allows for the educational team to gather data to ensure the accommodation is effective. Be sure your child is willing to use the accommodation before the test day.

Links

Colorado Accommodations Manual

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/sites/default/files/2013-14%20Accommodation%20Manual%20Final%203.0.pdf>

Colorado Accommodations Guide for English Learners

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/sites/default/files/Accommodations%20Guide%20for%20ELs%202013%202014%20final%20V.2.pdf>

Sample Items:

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/assessment/coassess-released>



Assessment Unit
201 East Colfax Avenue
Denver, CO 80203-1799

Phone: 303-866-6929
Fax: 303-866-6680
www.cde.state.co.us

Accommodations for TCAP

Transitional Colorado Assessment Program for Reading, Writing and Mathematics

Grades 3— 10

Parent Brochure

● ● ● | Accommodations for TCAP — Reading, Writing and Mathematics

TCAP Overview

TCAP is a statewide test of how well students have learned the skills in the Colorado Standards, while allowing districts to transition to the Colorado Academic Standards. Where possible, TCAP is designed to measure standards that are common between the old standards and the new standards. The test items include multiple choice and constructed response.

State law requires all public school students enrolled in grades 3 - 10 take the state assessment at the grade level they are enrolled in, regardless of language background or ability. Most students will participate in TCAP.



Some students will participate in TCAP with allowable accommodations.

Based on your child's needs, your child may take the tests in one of the following ways:

- TCAP without accommodations,
- TCAP with accommodations, and/or
- the alternate assessment (CoAlt).

Your child's educational team, which includes you, 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 uses in the classroom are not allowed on TCAP because they change what is being tested. For example, using a 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 (i.e., large print, braille, translated oral scripts)
- Changes in the way students respond to the test items (i.e., brailers, large #2 pencils)
- Changes in the setting/environment (i.e., less students in the room, or taking the test alone)
- Changes in the scheduling of the test (i.e., 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 the state deadline, usually December 15.

To be approved, the accommodation must not change what is tested or affect the validity or reliability of the test. An example of a nonstandard accommodation that may be approved is the need to use a pen rather than a pencil because of sensory concerns.