Texas Education Agency

Type 1

Dictionary

Description of Accommodation

This accommodation facilitates comprehension of unfamiliar words and provides spelling assistance for a student with a disability.

Assessments

For a student who meets the eligibility criteria, this accommodation may be used on

- STAAR, STAAR Spanish, and STAAR A grades 3–5 reading
- STAAR, STAAR Spanish, and STAAR A grade 4 writing (all sections of the assessment)

Student Eligibility Criteria

A student may use this accommodation if he or she

- ❒ receives special education or Section 504 services,
- ❒ routinely, independently, and effectively uses this accommodation during classroom instruction and classroom testing, and
- ❒ meets at least one of the following.
  - For use on a reading test, the student has a disability that affects memory retrieval or decoding skills.
  - For use on a writing test, the student is capable of organizing and developing ideas and understands the basic function and use of written language conventions (e.g., sentence structures, irregular verbs) but has a disability that is so severe that he or she cannot apply basic spelling rules and word patterns (e.g., silent letters, base words with affixes).

Authority for Decision and Required Documentation

- For a student receiving special education services, the decision is made by the ARD committee based on the eligibility criteria and is documented in the student's IEP.
- For a student receiving Section 504 services, the decision is made by the Section 504 committee based on the eligibility criteria and is documented in the student's IAP.
- In the case of an ELL with a disability, the decision is made by the applicable group above in conjunction with the student's LPAC. The decision is to be documented by the LPAC in the student's permanent record file and by the other applicable group, as described above.
- After state testing, GA must be recorded in the ACCOMM. field on the student's answer document or in the Texas Assessment Management System for online administrations. This indicates that an allowable general accommodation was made available to the student.

No Accommodation Request Form required.



Examples/Types

This accommodation may include **only**

- standard/general dictionary in English (or Spanish for Spanish-version tests)
- dictionary/thesaurus combination
- electronic dictionary (e.g., handheld electronic dictionary, speaking dictionary with headphones)
- bilingual dictionary (word-to-word translations; no definitions or examples)
- ESL dictionary (definition of an English word using simplified English)
- picture dictionary
- sign language dictionary

Special Instructions/Considerations

1. A student who uses this accommodation may complete the test in a separate setting to eliminate distractions to other students and to ensure the confidentiality of the test.
2. The use of a dictionary as a testing accommodation should not replace the teaching of vocabulary or spelling skills as outlined in the TEKS.
3. Dictionaries are a required part of standard test administration procedures (and not considered a testing accommodation) for some state assessments. For more information, refer to the STAAR Dictionary Policy located on the TEA's STAAR Resources webpage. If a student in grade 6 or above needs a dictionary not listed in this policy, contact TEA's Accommodations Task Force.
4. As a testing accommodation, students should use the same type of dictionary they routinely use during classroom instruction and classroom testing to the extent allowable. The dictionary may be provided by the school or brought from the student's home. However, the dictionary must be commercially produced. Teacher-made or student-made dictionaries are not allowed.
5. Information about the use of dictionaries as a linguistic accommodation can be found in the Linguistic Accommodations for ELLs Participating in the STAAR Program document on the TEA's Accommodation Resources webpage.
6. Districts are required to have procedures in place to prevent the use of cell phones and personal electronic devices during test administrations. Electronic devices can disrupt the testing environment and compromise the security and confidentiality of the test. When using technology-based accommodations (e.g., electronic dictionary), students are **NOT** permitted Internet access during testing. Also, electronic devices with Internet or photographic capabilities cannot be used.