



Dictionary

Description of Accommodation

This accommodation, or designated support, facilitates comprehension of unfamiliar words and provides spelling assistance for a student.

Assessments

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

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

Student Eligibility Criteria

A student may use this accommodation if he or she

- routinely, independently, and effectively uses this accommodation during classroom instruction and classroom testing.

Authority for Decision and Required Documentation

- For a student not receiving special education or Section 504 services, the decision is made by the appropriate team of people at the campus level (e.g., RTI team, student assistance team) based on the eligibility criterion and is documented according to district policies.
- For a student who is an ELL, the decision is made by the LPAC based on the eligibility criterion and is documented in the student's permanent record file.
- For a student receiving Section 504 services, the decision is made by the Section 504 committee based on the eligibility criterion and is documented in the student's IAP.
- For a student receiving special education services, the decision is made by the ARD committee based on the eligibility criterion and is documented in the student's IEP.
- 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.

Examples/Types

This accommodation may include **only**

- standard/general monolingual dictionary in English or the language most appropriate for the student
- 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 and can be provided in the language that is most appropriate for the student. However, the dictionary must be commercially produced. Teacher-made or student-made dictionaries are not allowed.
5. 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.
6. LPACs may not recommend designated supports for an ELL whose parents have denied bilingual or ESL services.