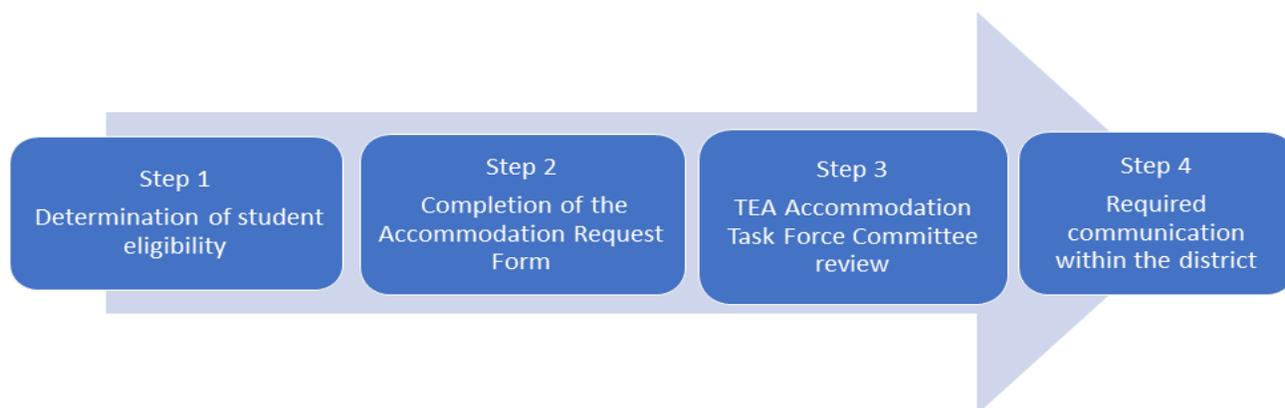




# Accommodation Request Process

Only the Complex Transcribing, Mathematics Scribe, Extra Day, and Other designated supports require the submission of an Accommodation Request Form to the Texas Education Agency (TEA). The appropriate team of people at the campus level (e.g., admission, review, and dismissal [ARD] committee, Section 504 committee, Response to Intervention [RtI] team, student assistance team) determines whether the student meets all of the specific eligibility criteria listed and, if so, submits an Accommodation Request Form to TEA. Do not submit an Accommodation Request Form if the student does not meet the specific eligibility criteria. Accommodation requests must be approved by TEA before a student can use the support on a state assessment. The decision to use one of these designated supports is recommended by the appropriate team at the campus level based on the eligibility criteria and is documented as “pending TEA approval.”



## STEP 1: DETERMINATION OF STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

The appropriate team of people at the campus level must consult the [Accommodation Resources](#) webpage to determine if the student meets the specific eligibility criteria for a particular designated support requiring TEA approval. The district testing coordinator is responsible for providing information about supports to campus testing coordinators or campus personnel and is also the primary contact person for schools when questions arise.

## STEP 2: COMPLETION AND SUBMISSION OF AN ACCOMMODATION REQUEST FORM

If a student meets all specific eligibility criteria for a particular designated support requiring TEA approval, the appropriate person at the campus or district level, as determined by district policy, should complete the Accommodation Request Form located in the Test Information Distribution Engine (TIDE) in the Administration and Security Forms Section. When completing the form, the following guidelines should be followed. Only Accommodation Request Forms that adhere to these guidelines will be processed. All others will be deleted and the district will be asked to resubmit the form.

- Confidential student information, such as a student's first or last name, Social Security number, pages from an individualized education program (IEP), or medical documents, should **NOT** be included.
- A separate request form should be completed for each student needing a designated support. Blanket requests for entire classrooms will **NOT** be accepted.
- The following information **must** be provided as the rationale on the Accommodation Request Form.

### Complex Transcribing Rationale

- Describe the impairment in vision or the physically disabling condition that creates a need for the Complex Transcribing designated support. Be specific about the characteristics of the condition, symptoms, and level of severity the student experiences. The description should be unique and individualized. Include specific reasons why the student is not able to write his or her own composition or use the Basic Transcribing designated support (e.g., word processor, speech-to-text) to complete the written composition.
- Attach a sample of the student's handwriting if the student is able to independently write.
- Describe what has been done to accommodate the student's needs in previous years. If the student was approved to receive this support in previous years, include the Accommodation Request Form prior identification number or "Prior ID."

### Extra Day Rationale

- Describe the disability that prevents the student from completing the test within the prescribed amount of time. Be specific about the characteristics of the condition, symptoms, and level of severity the student experiences. Phrases like "severe fatigue" and "shuts down" are not sufficient. The description should be specific and individualized. For instance, **explain** what happens when the student becomes severely fatigued or starts to shut down.
- Explain how the provision of extra day has proven effective for this student.
- Does the student require frequent breaks? How long are the student's breaks? How often are the student's breaks? How much work does the student accomplish during periods of productivity?
- Does the student have an alternate school schedule or location (e.g., attends school only two hours a day, is hospitalized, is homebound, has academic work in the morning and social skills in the afternoon)?
- What accessibility features or other designated supports have been tried, and what is the student's level of success with these? Why are they not effective?
- Describe what has been done to accommodate the student's needs in previous years. If the student was approved to receive this support in previous years, include the Accommodation Request Form prior identification number, or "Prior ID."

### Mathematics Scribe Rationale

- Describe the impairment in vision or the physically disabling condition that creates a need for the Mathematics Scribe designated support. Be specific about the characteristics of the condition, symptoms, and level of severity the student experiences. The description should be unique and individualized. Include specific reasons why the student is not able to write his or her own computations or to use other accessibility features or designated supports to address the disability.
- Attach a sample of the student's handwritten computations if legibility is the issue.

- Describe what has been done to accommodate the student's needs in previous years. If the student was approved to receive this support in previous years, include the Accommodation Request Form prior identification number, or "Prior ID."

## Other Rationale

An Accommodation Request Form may be submitted by the appropriate person at the campus or district level by indicating *Other* in the accommodation drop-down menu. The following information must be provided when completing the online Accommodation Request Form:

- a detailed description of the Other designated support being requested
- a description of the disability that creates a need for an Other designated support, including specific information about the characteristics of the condition, symptoms, and level of severity the student experiences
- a description of accessibility features or other designated supports that have been tried and the student's level of success with them
- a description of what has been done to accommodate the student's needs in previous years. If the student was approved to receive this support in previous years, include the Accommodation Request Form prior identification number, or "Prior ID."

Once the required information has been collected, designated campus personnel may complete the Accommodation Request Form in TIDE. The link to the Administration and Security Forms Section in TIDE can be found on the [Accommodation Resources](#) webpage. A training presentation addressing how to successfully complete an Accommodation Request Form is available on this webpage as well.

The Accommodation Request Form is set up in sections to help the submitter complete the form. It is important to read through each section carefully. Drop-down menus are used in specific sections to indicate the *District/Campus/Region* and *Administration*. Other sections include check boxes that should be selected, when applicable, to the request. A rationale must be completed with each accommodation request form. At the end of the form, click the *Submit* button and a confirmation page will provide a request ID number. This confirmation page may be printed for documentation purposes; however, this is only a receipt of submission and is not an approval for the student to use the designated support on the state assessment.

Accommodation Request Forms must be submitted to TEA in a timely manner to allow committee members the ability to process and review requests, as well as communicate to districts the appropriate guidelines for administering a TEA-approved designated support. Requests should be submitted no later than one week prior to the individual student's test administration window. For circumstances that require an accommodation request but occur after this time (e.g., newly enrolled student, medical emergency, updated ARD committee decision) the district coordinator should contact TEA's Student Assessment Division at 512-463-9536, and ask to speak to a member of the Accommodations Task Force for further instructions.

After the designated representative of the TEA's Accommodations Task Force has received the district coordinator-approved Accommodation Request Form, the information will be brought to the task force to be reviewed by the committee. In some cases, a representative of TEA's Accommodations Task Force may contact the district for more information. Once a decision has been made, requests will include special guidelines so that the use of the designated support is carried out in a standardized manner.

This step in the accommodation request process may take several weeks to complete, although every attempt is made to address requests promptly. During the review process, do not resubmit the request unless asked to do so by a member of TEA's Accommodations Task Force. If the TEA decision has not been received prior to testing or if questions arise, the district coordinator may contact TEA's Accommodations Task Force.

#### **STEP 4: REQUIRED COMMUNICATION WITHIN DISTRICT**

It is the responsibility of the district coordinator to ensure that all designated support decisions and associated information are relayed to appropriate campus personnel.

- The TEA decision email should be read in its entirety. It is the responsibility of the district coordinator and campus coordinator to review any special guidelines that accompany an approved accommodation request. The test administrator may also need special training to administer an assessment with an approved designated support.
- Appropriate campus personnel should note the expiration date of an approved designated support, stated in the TEA decision email. All approved accommodation requests will expire after the last summer test administration. A new accommodation request will need to be submitted each school year if the student continues to need that support.

For questions about TEA designated supports or the Accommodation Request Process, contact TEA's Accommodations Task Force at 512-463-9536.