

# Accommodations & Modifications

Every child with a disability has a right to attend general education classes and to have accommodations and/or modifications to help them be successful in those classes. It is not uncommon for the terms accommodations and modifications to be misused interchangeably.

Accommodations and modifications can be important tools to help your child successfully accomplish their Individualized Education Program (IEP) goals and objectives and participate actively with other students in classroom and school activities. So, what is the difference between an accommodation and a modification?

**Accommodations are changes in how a student accesses information and demonstrates learning.**

An accommodation is a change that can help a student overcome or work around their disability, provide equal access to learning, and equal opportunity to show what they know and can do. These changes are typically physical or environmental changes. Allowing a student who has trouble writing to give their answers orally is an example of an accommodation. This sort of accommodation extends across assignments and content areas.

## Examples of Accommodations

- Teacher provides notes/outlines, allows type-written work, provides highlighted text, allows the use of spell-checker
- Daily agenda checks between home and school, additional progress reports
- Preferential seating, ability to leave room without permission, peer buddy, behavior reward system
- Extended time on assignments, shortened assignments, simplification of directions
- Tests read aloud to the student, verbal response acceptable instead of written response, multiple-choice response instead of fill-in-the-blank or short answer/essay




## Resources for Families

Need more information on IDEA, IEPs, or special education? Scan the QR code to access our online resources.



## Partners Resource Network

 Offices in Lubbock, Houston, Austin, El Paso, and Dallas/Fort Worth

 1.800.866.4726

 [info@prntexas.org](mailto:info@prntexas.org)

 [prntexas.org](http://prntexas.org)



# Modifications are changes in what a student is expected to learn.

Modifications are generally connected to instruction and assessment; things that can be tangibly changed or modified. The changes are made to provide a student with opportunities to participate meaningfully and productively along with other students in the classroom and school learning experiences. Usually a modification means a change in what is being taught to or expected from the student. Making the assignment easier so the student is not doing the same level of work as other students is an example of a modification. This change is specific to a particular type of assignment. Making a slight modification to an assignment can drastically improve a student's ability to be academically successful.

## Examples of Modifications

- Reduction of homework, reduction of class work
- Omitting story problems, using specialized or alternative curricula written at a lower level, simplified vocabulary and concepts, alternative reading books at an independent reading level
- Tests are written at a lower level of understanding, preview tests are provided as a study guide, picture supports are provided, use of a calculator
- Grading based on pass or fail, grading based on work completion

## Who Decides a Student's Accommodations and/or Modifications?

The Admission, Review and Dismissal (ARD) committee, which includes the parent or guardian, determines the accommodations and modifications that meet the unique and individual needs of the student.

The reality is that many students will require both modifications and accommodations to support learning. Modifications and/or accommodations are most often made in scheduling, setting, materials, instruction, and student response. Modifications deliberately lower the intellectual level of the instructional content delivered, while accommodations are generally best practices used for all students, in a differentiated classroom. **What is most important to know about modifications and accommodations is that both are meant to help children learn.**



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