



OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION
ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER

February 2018

TO: District Superintendents
Superintendents of Public Schools
Public School Administrators
Charter School Administrators
Superintendents of State-Operated and State-Supported Schools
Executive Directors of Approved Private Schools
Nonpublic School Administrators
Directors of Special Education
Directors of Pupil Personnel Services
Chairpersons of Committees on Special Education
Organizations, Parents and Individuals Concerned with Special Education

FROM: Christopher Suriano 

SUBJECT: Testing Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform school districts of the new guidance document, *Testing Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: Policy and Tools to Guide Decision-Making and Implementation*, developed by the New York State Education Department (NYSED) to assist school personnel in making appropriate decisions for considering, documenting, and implementing testing accommodations for students with disabilities. Testing accommodations are changes that remove certain disability-related obstacles to the testing process, allowing students with disabilities to participate in assessments on an equitable basis with their nondisabled peers. Such accommodations provide students with the ability to demonstrate skills and attainment of knowledge without being limited or unfairly restricted due to the effects of a disability.

This guidance document, found on the [Office of Special Education website](#), supersedes the guidance in NYSED's May 2006 *Test Access and Accommodations for Students with Disabilities*. Updates in the guidance document cover areas including, but not limited to: computer-based testing, assistive technology accommodations, tests read, use of spell-check devices/software, procedures on the use of a scribe and multiple day test administration. This guidance document should be used in conjunction with the [School Administrator's Manuals](#) for all assessments and examinations included in the New York State testing program.

Questions regarding this memorandum may be directed to the Special Education Policy Unit at (518) 473-2878 or to speced@nysed.gov.