



Spelling Assistance

Description of Accommodation

This accommodation, or designated support, provides various types of spelling assistance for a student with a disability.

Assessments

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

- STAAR grades 4 and 7 writing (written composition **ONLY**)
- STAAR Spanish grade 4 writing (written composition **ONLY**)
- STAAR English I, English II, and English III (written composition **ONLY**)

Student Eligibility Criteria

A student may use this accommodation if he or she

- receives Section 504 or special education services,
- routinely, independently, and effectively uses this accommodation during classroom instruction and classroom testing, and
- 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 or word patterns (e.g., silent letters, base words with affixes) to written responses.

Authority for Decision and Required Documentation

- 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.
- 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.
- 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**

- frequently misspelled word list (e.g., student-made, teacher-made, commercially produced)
- spell-check function on a word processor
- pocket spell-checker
- word-prediction software
- text-to-speech software or devices (i.e., software or devices that read aloud student-generated text)
- speech-to-text software (i.e., software that converts the student's spoken language into print)

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 spelling assistance as a testing accommodation should not replace the teaching of 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 on the TEA's STAAR Resources webpage. For these assessments, any spelling assistance listed in the Examples/Types section may be provided, along with the required dictionary, to a student who meets the eligibility criteria.
4. If a student needs his or her typed response transcribed onto an answer document or into the Texas Assessment Management System for online administrations, refer to the Basic Transcribing policy.
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., speech-to-text, text-to-speech), students are **NOT** permitted Internet access during testing. Also, electronic devices with Internet or photographic capabilities cannot be used.