

EL ACCOMMODATIONS

frequently asked questions

What are EL Accommodations and Modifications?

Accommodations – used on classroom assessments and state tests.

More accommodations can be used on classroom assessments than are allowable on state tests. The purpose of accommodations is to get a true picture of an EL's content knowledge. E.g. Read Aloud, Translating, Changing the format of the test, etc.

Modifications – tweaks to classroom instruction that help ELs learn the content you are teaching them. E.g. Modeling, Using visuals, etc.

How do I document accommodations?

The Academic Documentation Form is sent directly to content teachers of EL students each nine weeks. The purpose of this form is to show what you have been doing in your class to make content comprehensible to EL students and to plan needed changes to accommodations for the next nine weeks.

Do ELs need the same accommodations at all times?

NO, accommodations are scaffolds used to lower the demands of language and make content comprehensible for ELs. Some standards may have more challenging vocabulary than other standards. Being an English Learner is different than having a disability in that a student's abilities are ever-changing. Thus, accommodations should change with them.

What about State Tests?

If a student needs accommodations on state tests, the appropriate boxes should be marked on the LSP attachment. The final box on the Academic Documentation Form should be marked in order to show that these State Test Accommodations are being used in the classroom.

Can EL students fail?

EL retention is handled on a case-by-case basis. It is against the law for EL students to be retained due to their language proficiency. Therefore, in order for an EL student to be retained, there must be plentiful evidence that accommodations have been done in the classroom to the extent that the student's language proficiency could not be the cause of failure. By the same note, ELs do not receive a modified grading scale – instead accommodations should be used to help ELs be successful.