

TEST ACCOMMODATIONS 2011

English Language Learners (ELLs)

Presented by:

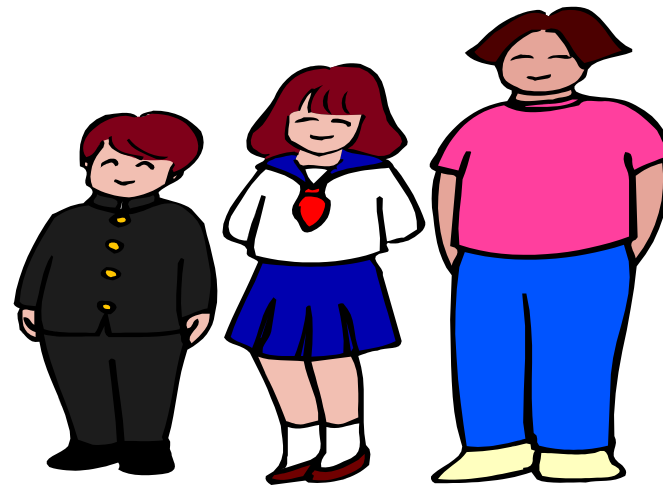
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***Multicultural, ESOL and Program
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PARTICIPATION IN TESTING

- In general, **ALL** students enrolled in the tested grade levels are required to participate in test administration.



FCAT EXEMPTION

- Exemption from FCAT Reading, Writing, Math and Science is no longer an option.
- Exception: ELL/ESE students with significant cognitive disabilities who meet exemption criteria from FCAT based on their IEP.

STATE GUIDELINES FOR DETERMINING APPROPRIATE ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS

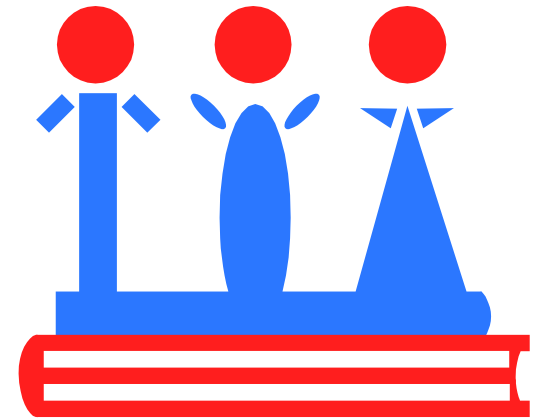
Accommodations should:

- Facilitate accurate demonstration of student knowledge and skills
- Not provide an unfair advantage or interfere with validity; not change underlying skills being measured
- Be the same or nearly the same as adaptations used in classroom instruction and assessment activities
- Be necessary for student to demonstrate knowledge, ability, skill, or mastery

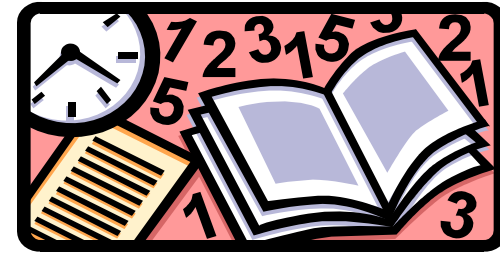
REMEMBER:

Arrangements for Accommodations for Eligible Students

- **Must be made in advance**
- **Accommodations provided to one student must not interfere with the testing of other students.**



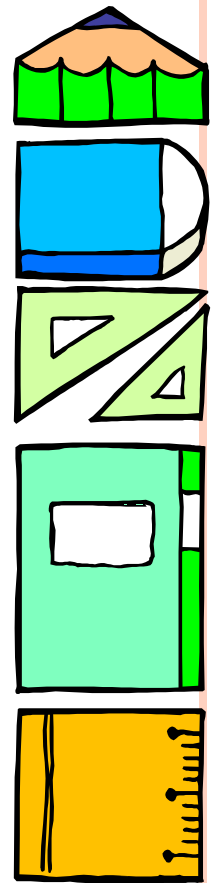
REMEMBER:



- School Testing Coordinators must provide opportunities for Test Administrators to become familiar with the allowable accommodations being provided.
- Students should receive instruction in testing procedures and have multiple opportunities to practice test-taking strategies.
- Students should also have the opportunity to practice using their accommodations in instructional and testing situations **before** taking the FCAT so they will be comfortable with the accommodations.

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR ELLS

- The District is required to offer FCAT accommodations to ELLs who are currently receiving services in an English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) program.
- Accommodations only apply to **active** ELLs with an ELL code of **LY** (A1-C1 and U-LY).
- Students who have exited the ESOL program and are being monitored (LF) are not eligible for testing accommodations.



ALLOWABLE ACCOMMODATIONS FOR ELLS

- The test may be administered with one of the following accommodations or a combination of these accommodations that are determined to be appropriate for the particular needs of the ELL:

- **Flexible Setting**

- **Flexible Scheduling**

- **Flexible Timing
(Additional Time)**

- **Assistance in the Heritage Language**

- **Translation Dictionary**



FLEXIBLE SETTING

- ELLs may be offered the opportunity to be tested in a separate room with the ESOL or heritage language teacher acting as test administrator.
- Parents must be informed of this option for students not of legal age and shall be given the opportunity to select the preferred method of test administration.
- A sample letter for schools to use to inform parents of the flexible setting accommodation is available on the Multicultural, ESOL and Program Services Department website.
- www.broward.k12.fl.us/esol



District and Statewide Testing: Flexible Setting Accommodation

(School Letterhead)

Date

Dear Parents or Guardians of _____:

Schools districts are required to offer accommodations to ELLs who are currently receiving services in a program operated in accordance with an approved district English Language Learner Student Education Plan (ELLSEP).

An accommodation recommended for your child is that he/she be given the opportunity to be tested in a separate room with the English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) or heritage language teacher serving as test administrator.

If you have a question or preference regarding this method of test administration, please contact _____ at _____.

Sincerely,

FLEXIBLE SETTING, CONT.

- Copy of letter for the student's ELLSEP folder
- Original letter for parent
- Letter is available electronically in English, Haitian-Creole, Spanish and Portuguese @ www.broward.k12.fl.us/esol/Eng/Handbook.htm



FLEXIBLE SCHEDULING

- ELLs may take a part or session of the test during several brief periods within one school day; however, a session of the test must be completed within one school day.



FLEXIBLE TIMING (ADDITIONAL TIME)

- ELLs may be provided additional time; however, a session must be completed within one school day.



ASSISTANCE IN THE HERITAGE LANGUAGE

The ESOL department does not provide interpreters for use as FCAT proctors.

- For the mathematics and science tests,
 - ELLs may be provided limited assistance by an ESOL or heritage language teacher using the student's heritage language.
 - The teacher may answer specific questions about a word or phrase that is confusing the student because of limited English proficiency, but is prohibited from giving assistance that will help the student solve mathematics problems and science test items.
 - The ESOL or heritage language teacher may answer student questions about the general test directions in their heritage language.
 - **All student responses must be written in English.** Responses written in languages other than English will not be scored.

ASSISTANCE IN THE HERITAGE LANGUAGE, CONT.

○ For the reading test

- The ESOL or heritage language teacher may answer student questions about the general test directions in a way that the student would not be led to infer the correct answer to any of the items.
- The teacher is prohibited from reading words to the student from the passages, test items, and performance tasks, and from answering student questions about the passages, test items, and performance tasks.
- **All student responses must be written in English.** Responses written in languages other than English will not be scored.



ASSISTANCE IN THE HERITAGE LANGUAGE, CONT.

○ For the writing test (prompt)

- The ESOL or heritage language teacher may answer student questions about the general test directions in their heritage language.
- The teacher may answer specific questions concerning a word or phrase that is confusing the student because of limited English proficiency, but is prohibited from giving assistance that will help the student respond to the prompt.
- In no case shall assistance be given to the student in responding to the writing assessment prompt. The teacher is prohibited from reading the prompt to the student.
- **All student responses must be written in English.** Responses written in languages other than English will not be scored.

APPROVED DICTIONARY

- ELLs must have access to an English-to-heritage language translation dictionary and/or heritage language-to-English translation dictionary, such as those made available to ELLs in an instructional setting.
- A dictionary providing definitions written exclusively in the heritage language or in English may not be provided.
- Use of electronic dictionaries is strictly prohibited and may be cause for invalidation.



DOCUMENTATION OF TESTING ACCOMMODATIONS FOR ELLS

- Testing accommodations must be documented on the *Accommodations Checklist for Active ELLs (LYs)* available on the department website at www.broward.k12.fl.us/esol

**Accommodations Checklist for Active
ELLs (LYs)**

Student Name _____

School _____

Grade _____

Testing accommodations are provided to active ELLs (LYs) in the administration of statewide (FCAT) and districtwide (SAT-10) assessments.

Please check the accommodation(s) appropriate for the particular needs of this ELL:

- flexible setting
- flexible timing
- flexible scheduling
- limited assistance in the heritage language
- English-to-heritage language and/or heritage language-to-English translation dictionary

These same accommodations must also be provided on a regular basis during classroom instruction and assessment.

Checklist completed by _____
Name

Title

Date

Original: ELLSEP folder

- For ELLs, the same accommodations provided during testing must also be provided on a regular basis during classroom instruction.
- ESOL instructional strategies must be documented in the teacher's plan book using the appropriate codes from the ESOL Instructional Strategies Matrix.



ACCOMMODATIONS PROHIBITED DURING TESTING

Section 1008.22 (3)(c) 6, Florida Statutes

... Accommodations that negate the validity of a statewide assessment are not allowable.

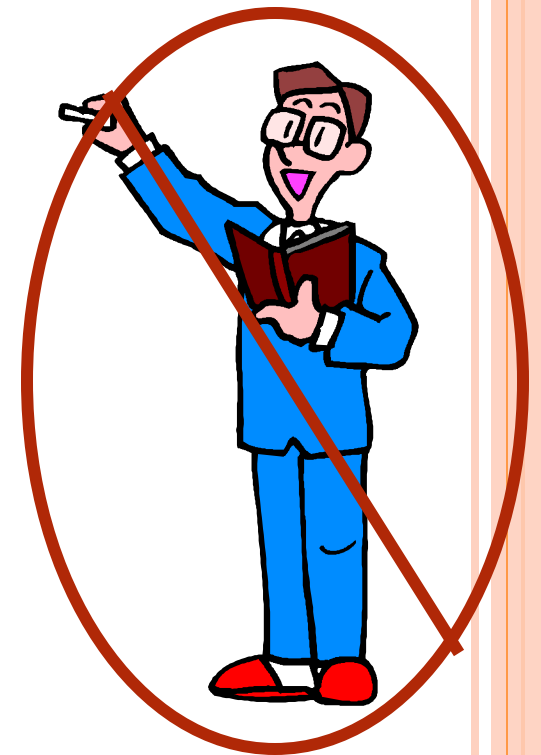
Some accommodations that students receive in the classroom are not allowed on the FCAT. Examples of accommodations that are NOT permitted include the following:

- ❖ reduced number of test questions
- ❖ use of calculator for students in grades 3-6

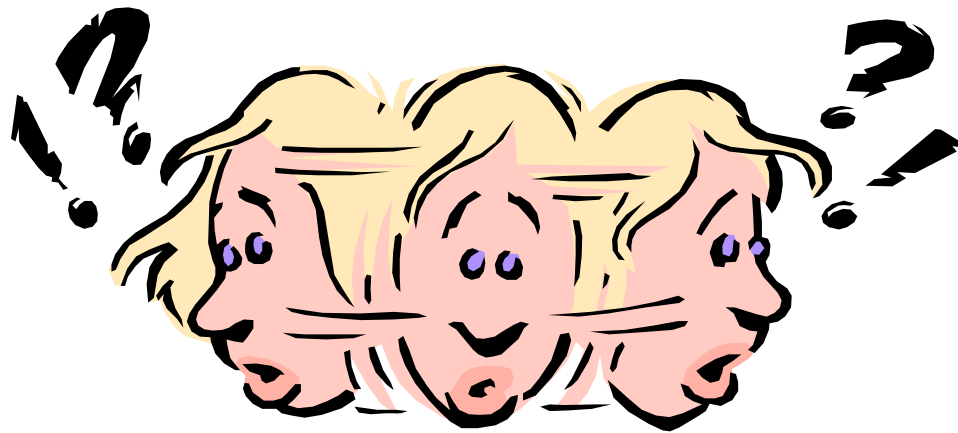


ACCOMMODATIONS PROHIBITED DURING TESTING, CONT.

- ❖ having a proctor read aloud passages and items that test reading skills
- ❖ use of spelling or grammar check on written responses
- ❖ graphic organizer software to assist in preparing responses
- ❖ text-to-speech software for the reading portion of the test



TEST ACCOMMODATIONS: Questions and Answers



See also Appendix A of 2011 FCAT SSS Test Administration Manuals on Test Accommodations.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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