

**Accommodations for English Language Learners (ELLs)  
Taking the FCAT:  
Frequently Asked Questions and Answers**

**English Language Learners**

1. *Are accommodations during testing permitted for LF students, who by definition have been exited from the ESOL program?*

**No.** These LF students have been exited from the ESOL program because they were determined to be proficient in English. As such, they are not eligible to receive accommodations during testing. The only ELLs who can receive accommodations are those who are actively enrolled in an ESOL program at the time of testing (LY students).

2. *Is eligibility to receive accommodations for ELLs tied to the number of years the ELL has been in an ESOL program or the student's language classification?*

**No.** Any student who is actively enrolled in an ESOL program is eligible to receive accommodations during testing. This would be any LY student. It is important that the teacher who is providing ESOL services to the ELL on a regular basis work with the ESOL contact and school testing coordinator to identify those accommodations that are necessary and appropriate for each individual student. These accommodations must be documented on the *Accommodations Checklist for Active ELL (LY) Students* and placed in the student's ELLSEP folder.

3. *For ELLs, is the flexible setting accommodation the only ELL accommodation that requires written parental notification?*

**Yes.** If the school plans to remove the ELL from his or her regular classroom and test him or her in a separate room, the parent shall be informed of this particular accommodation if the student is not of legal age, and the parent will have the opportunity to select the preferred method of test administration.

4. *If an ELL requires extra time and the student needs to be tested in a separate room so as not to interfere with the testing of other students, is parent notification required?*

**Yes.** The parent needs to be notified of the plan to test the student in a separate setting, since that is what the school needs to do in order to provide that student with the accommodations he or she needs during testing. The parent should be informed that if the student is not placed in a separate setting, it may impact the ability of the school to provide the necessary accommodations.

5. *What does the school do if a test administrator or teacher notes that the student is responding in a language other than English, say for performance test items?*

**The answer document should still be submitted for scoring. Those responses in any language other than English will not be scored, but the student's test should still be submitted.**

6. *If an accommodation (i.e. extended time) is offered for testing and the student does not utilize that documented accommodation, do you still grid that accommodation type on the answer sheet document?*

**No. Do not grid the bubble unless an accommodation is actually used.**

### **Students With Disabilities and English Language Learners**

7. *What types of test accommodations are offered to an ESE or 504 student who is also an ELL? How would the student's dual eligibility affect accommodations provided during testing?*

**For ESE or 504 students, the accommodations are documented on the IEP or 504 plan and are specifically related to the student's disability. If these students are also ELLs, they must be offered individually appropriate accommodations that are available to ELLs during testing, such as a bilingual dictionary or assistance in the heritage language, as related to the student's specific needs.**

8. *What does the school do if an ELL, ESE or 504 student cannot or does not complete the test, even with extra time?*

**The student's answer document should be submitted for scoring as is.**

9. *Can manipulatives, number lines, and so forth be provided to students during testing?*

**No. Students are not permitted to use manipulatives, number lines, or other similar items during test administration. While these are instructional tools that are often used in the classroom setting, they are not one of the allowable accommodations during testing.**