



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

AA-AAS | Accessibility and Accommodations

Do alternate assessments have accommodations?

Alternate assessments have many accessibility features incorporated into their design, but some students who take alternate assessments still will need accommodations to access them. [Accommodations](#) are changes in the materials or procedures of the assessment that do not alter the construct being measured. The accommodations in a student's IEP that are consistent with the accommodations policy for the assessment support student access to the test and allow them to demonstrate their knowledge.

Who makes decisions about accessibility features and accommodations for an AA-AAS?

Accommodations decisions need to be made by people who know the educational needs of the student. Individualized Education Program (IEP) teams must make decisions for students with significant cognitive disabilities who participate in the alternate assessment based on alternate achievement standards (AA-AAS). The IEP team should include the student and a parent. General education teachers can provide input on accommodations decisions, even if they are not members of the IEP team.

For English Learners (ELs) with significant cognitive disabilities, it is important that an English as a Second Language or bilingual education professional serve on the IEP team so that decisions take into account both the student's disability and language learning needs.