

NDE formed a statewide Accommodation Advisory Committee (ACC) comprised of representatives from general and special education, assistive technology, English Language Learners (ELL), and Parents Encouraging Parents (PEP) to deal with issues involving assessment accommodations. AAC formalized the process utilized in the selection of valid testing accommodations for use on state assessments by creating the State Education Agency (SEA) Decision Making Process for Nevada Proficiency Examination Accommodations flowchart. Five criteria must be met before an accommodation can be included on any of the three Accommodation forms (i.e., for IEP, 504, and LEP students) for the Nevada Proficiency Examination Program (NPEP).

The five criteria are:

- Does not alter the construct of the test
- Meets state and federal laws
- Provides an opportunity for the student to demonstrate knowledge and skills
- Based on expert judgment, research and/or empirical evidence
- Complies with state test security and administration procedures

Nevada students have participated in studies to evaluate the validity of testing accommodations. AAC reviewed the results of these studies including the Connecticut Enhanced Assessment Grant (CTEAG) project and a study conducted by the National Center for Research on Evaluation, Standards, and Student Testing (CRESST). A review of the literature on test accommodations was conducted under NDE direction, and the AAC reviewed the Executive Summary of this review along with other specific research pertinent to accommodations traditionally allowed on Nevada statewide assessments. This research review was conducted to ensure that any accommodation chosen would provide students with disabilities and ELL students an opportunity to participate meaningfully in state assessments.

Each accommodation form was reviewed and revised separately using the established criteria. Any previously used accommodations that were deemed a test administration procedure for all students, e.g., extended time, were omitted. The definition of a modification and a cautionary statement on the results if a modification is used (Students are placed on the lowest achievement category and do not receive participation credit) are included on the forms.