



**STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA**  
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

**MOLLY M. SPEARMAN**  
*STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION*

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** District Test Coordinators  
Special Education Directors

**FROM:** Suzanne Swaffield  
Office of Assessment

**DATE:** March 31, 2015

**RE:** Newly Available ACT Aspire™ Accommodation

ACT, Inc. has reviewed the use of an electronic speller for the ACT Aspire Writing test. After careful review by ACT Aspire™ content developers, it has been determined that South Carolina may conduct a small-scale pilot of the use of this accommodation. Previously on SCPASS Writing, less than one percent of students used spelling support as an accommodation, so it is expected that only a small number of students will utilize this support. In order for an accommodation to be used during assessment, a student must have been using the accommodation routinely throughout the school year.

The use of an electronic speller is an accommodation level support, which is available to students who have an IEP, 504 Plan, or ELL Accommodations Plan specifying this support is needed for access to the writing assessment. Because this support is not currently listed in the PNP, ACT Aspire™ requires that “word-to-word dictionary” be designated in the PNP if a student will receive this support during the ACT Aspire™ Writing test. Additionally, ACT Aspire™ has provided the following guidelines for use of an electronic speller:

- The electronic speller will provide word spelling only with no definitions, no pictures, and no synonyms or tense forms.
- The device may offer two or three (a few) word-prediction choices per spelling attempt. These words must not be synonyms, but merely two or three words that might be *predicted from* or generated by the approximate spelling provided by the student.
- The student must independently identify the desired word and then apply it to his/her written response without further support.

Please contact Anne Mruz in the Office of Assessment at [AMruz@ed.sc.gov](mailto:AMruz@ed.sc.gov), (803) 734-8034 if you have any questions.

cc: District Superintendents