



# STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Mick Zais  
Superintendent

1429 Senate Street  
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** District Superintendent

**FROM:** Elizabeth Jones  
Director, Office of Assessment

**DATE:** October 6, 2011

**RE:** Report on the Use of Testing Accommodations for PASS

The attached report summarizes the use of accommodations by students with disabilities in your district during the English language arts (ELA) and mathematics Palmetto Assessment of State Standards (PASS) tests over the past three years (2009-2011). IEP teams and 504 Plan committees may recommend testing accommodations for students with disabilities who require the accommodations to access the tests and to obtain a meaningful assessment of student performance. This report is provided to allow you to quickly review the rates of use of testing accommodations by students with IEPs and 504 Plans in your district.

In the report, rows labeled "IEPs" and "504 Plans" represent the number and percent of students identified out of all students tested (i.e., receiving scores in any content area). The count and percent for each type of accommodation also reflects the number and percent of students using the accommodation out of all students tested in the particular content area. The data summarized in this report were obtained from PASS answer folder coding at the time of testing.

A complete description of each accommodation listed may be found in Appendix C of the PASS Test Administration Manual (TAM). In this report accommodations are identified as "standard accommodations" and "non-standard accommodations." The use of non-standard accommodations has significant implications for Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) and South Carolina Report Card calculations. Students using non-standard accommodations are considered non-participants for accountability purposes as the use of the non-standard accommodations may alter the construct that the test measures or change the meaning of the scores.

The use of a testing accommodation is only allowable during testing when the accommodation is used routinely during instruction. In reviewing the trends of the use of accommodations, you may find that the information reflects the patterns you would expect based on the instructional practices in your district or you may note some inconsistencies between testing and instructional practices.

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Please share this information with appropriate staff in your district. If you have any questions about this report please contact Douglas Alexander via telephone at 803-734-3923 or via e-mail at [dgalexan@ed.sc.gov](mailto:dgalexan@ed.sc.gov).

Attachment

cc: District Test Coordinator  
District Special Education Administrator  
Marlene Metts, Director, Office of Exceptional Children

**Palmetto Assessment of State Standards (PASS)  
Use of Testing Accommodations for 2009–2011  
Sample District**

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>
Total Number of Student Records (All Students)	10927	11153	11105
Total IEP/504 Students in Writing	1134	1176	386*
Total IEP/504 Students in ELA	1142	1184	1235
Total IEP/504 Students in Mathematics	1142	1187	1236

	<u>2009</u>		<u>2010</u>		<u>2011</u>		Change in Percent from <b>2009</b>
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	
IEPs	1082	9.9	1113	10.0	1122	10.1	0.2
504 Plans	94	0.9	106	1.0	121	1.1	0.2
<b>Writing Standard Accommodations:</b>							
Setting	711	62.7	676	57.5	250	64.8	2.1
Timing	43	3.8	43	3.7	15	3.9	0.1
Scheduling	12	1.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	-1.1
Oral/Signed Administration	242	21.3	365	31.0	156	40.4	19.1
Presentation – Other	35	3.1	25	2.1	5	1.3	-1.8
Response Options	61	5.4	87	7.4	44	11.4	6.0
<b>Non-standard Accommodation:</b>							
Extended-Response spell-check, grammar-check, or word prediction	11	1.0	0	0.0	2	0.5	-0.5
<b>ELA Standard Accommodations:</b>							
Setting	719	63.0	782	66.0	829	67.1	4.2
Timing	42	3.7	58	4.9	38	3.1	-0.6
Scheduling	35	3.1	1	0.1	9	0.7	-2.3
Oral/Signed Administration (Grades 5-8)	188	25.2	201	25.6	264	32.3	7.1
Presentation – Other	23	2.0	60	5.1	35	2.8	0.8
Response Options	59	5.2	83	7.0	110	8.9	3.7
<b>Non-standard Accommodation:</b>							
Oral/Signed Administration (Grade 3 or 4)	41	10.4	15	3.8	8	1.9	-8.5
<b>Mathematics Standard Accommodations:</b>							
Setting	726	63.6	795	67.0	849	68.7	5.1
Timing	42	3.7	61	5.1	38	3.1	-0.6
Scheduling	50	4.4	2	0.2	10	0.8	-3.6
Oral/Signed Administration	502	44.0	542	45.7	611	49.4	5.5
Presentation – Other	8	0.7	32	2.7	27	2.2	1.5
Response Options	61	5.3	84	7.1	113	9.1	3.8
Calculator (Grades 5-8)	171	22.9	121	15.4	140	17.1	-5.8
<b>Non-standard Accommodation:</b>							
Calculator (Grade 3 or 4)	3	0.8	1	0.2	1	0.2	-0.5

\*Reflects testing in grades 5 and 8 only.