



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

MOLLY M. SPEARMAN
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

TO: District Test Coordinators

FROM: Elizabeth Jones, Director
Office of Assessment

DATE: December 31, 2015

RE: Allowable Accommodations for SC READY

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide information to districts pertaining to allowable accommodations for students with disabilities and English Language Learners (ELLs) on the SC READY assessments for grades 3–8 ELA and mathematics.

To meet state and federal requirements, all students must participate in the SC READY assessments, unless a student's IEP team has determined that the student should take an alternate assessment based on alternate achievement standards. Students may use any of the standard accommodations included in the attachment to access the content on the SC READY assessments.

As of December 1, 2015, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) has a contract with Data Recognition Corporation (DRC) the publisher of the SC READY assessments. The SCDE has worked with DRC to identify accommodations which yield valid and reliable scores for accountability purposes. Accommodations information determined at this time to result in valid and reliable scores for students with disabilities and ELLs is included in the attachment.

2007 Federal Regulations §300.160 (b)(2)(ii) require that State and LEA guidelines instruct IEP teams to select, for each assessment, only those accommodations which do not invalidate a score. In some cases, it may be necessary for IEP teams to review the accommodations listed in the students' IEP and in the attachment to ensure that only standard accommodations have been selected to provide a student access to the assessment. All accommodations used by a student on the SC READY assessments must be documented in the student's IEP or 504 Plan. ELLs must

have standard accommodations needed to access the assessment documented in an ELL Accommodations Plan.

For the spring 2016 administration, oral administration will only be available for the mathematics test. Oral administration is not allowed on either session of the ELA test for spring 2016. For the mathematics test, all students in grades 6–8 will be allowed to use a calculator on the calculator section of the test. Calculators are not allowed for any students in grades 3–5, or on the non-calculator section of the grades 6–8 mathematics tests. The SCDE and DRC plan to conduct validity studies in the spring to determine if these accommodations can be used to yield valid, reliable results. The results of these studies will determine if additional accommodations are allowed on future administrations of SC READY assessments.

For questions regarding accommodations, please contact Anne Mruz at 803-734-8034 or amruz@ed.sc.gov. For other questions regarding the SC READY assessments, please contact Susan Creighton at 803-734-8535 or screight@ed.sc.gov.

cc: Special Education Directors