



**STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

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

**MEMORANDUM**

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

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

John Payne, Director  
Office of Special Education Services

**DATE:** January 26, 2015

**RE:** The ACT<sup>®</sup> Testing Accommodations for Grade 11

An overview of The ACT approval process for testing with accommodations was provided by the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) in a memorandum dated December 19, 2014. The purpose of this memorandum is to provide additional guidance regarding State-Allowed and Locally Approved Accommodations for testing students with disabilities and English language learners (ELLs) on The ACT. This memorandum does not address accommodations for ACT Aspire<sup>™</sup>.

Accommodations on The ACT are designated as ACT-Approved, State-Allowed, or Locally Approved. All accommodations utilized by students on The ACT whether ACT-Approved, State-Allowed, or Locally Approved must be documented in the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP), 504 Accommodations Plan, or ELL Accommodations Plan. A list of the State-Allowed and Locally Approved Accommodations for The ACT is provided with this memorandum.

A parent information sheet, *Parent Information for Accommodations on The ACT Assessment*, is also included to provide an explanation for parents of the available ACT testing accommodations for students with IEPs or 504 Accommodations Plans.

### **Testing Students with Disabilities (SWD)**

#### **State-Allowed Accommodations**

ACT, Inc. has determined that using the accommodations listed in the attached table of State-Allowed Accommodations will not compromise the validity of the resulting scores for purposes of state and federal accountability. However, the scores will not be reported to colleges, scholarship agencies, or to other entities. The State-Allowed Accommodations may be used without ACT or state approval for state and federal accountability reporting. If the student is seeking a college-reportable score, the school must follow the appropriate ACT, Inc. procedures.

#### **Locally Approved Accommodations**

Locally Approved Accommodations are determined at the school level and do not require approval from the state or ACT, Inc. Locally Approved Accommodations may be used with State-Allowed Accommodations, with ACT-Approved Accommodations, or with standard time administration.

Locally Approved Accommodations used in conjunction with State-Allowed Accommodations result in scores that may be used for state and federal accountability purposes.

Locally Approved Accommodations used in conjunction with ACT-Approved Accommodations or standard time administrations may result in college-reportable scores if they meet the conditions of The ACT addressed in the attached tables.

### **Testing English Language Learners (ELLs) Without Disabilities**

There are no ACT-Approved Accommodations for ELLs without disabilities. A table of State-Allowed Accommodations and Locally Approved Accommodations for ELL students without disabilities is attached.

#### **State-Allowed Accommodations**

ACT, Inc. has determined that using the accommodations listed in the attached table of State-Allowed Accommodations will not compromise the validity of the resulting scores for purposes of state and federal accountability. However, the scores will not be reported to colleges, scholarship agencies, or to other entities. The State-Allowed Accommodations may be used without ACT or state approval for state and federal accountability reporting.

**Locally Approved Accommodations**

Locally Approved Accommodations are determined at the school level and do not require approval from the state or ACT, Inc. Locally Approved Accommodations may be used with State-Allowed Accommodations or with standard time administration.

Locally Approved Accommodations used in conjunction with State-Allowed Accommodations result in scores that may be used for state and federal accountability purposes.

Locally Approved Accommodations used with the standard time administration and not used in conjunction with State-Allowed Accommodations are determined at the local level and **may** result in college-reportable scores if they meet the conditions of The ACT addressed in the attached tables.

**Accommodations Information**

Please refer to the attached tables for a listing of State-Allowed and Locally Approved Accommodations and conditions on The ACT. For questions on State-Allowed and Locally Approved Accommodations, please contact Anne Mruz at the SCDE at [amruz@ed.sc.gov](mailto:amruz@ed.sc.gov). For questions regarding ACT-Approved Accommodations, contact ACT, Inc. at 800-553-6244, ext. 1788, or e-mail accommodations questions to [ACTStateAccoms@act.org](mailto:ACTStateAccoms@act.org).

cc: District Title 1 Coordinators

Attachments