



**STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

MOLLY M. SPEARMAN
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

TO: District Test Coordinators
District Test Coordinators for Alternate Assessment
District Special Education Directors

FROM: Elizabeth Jones, Director
Office of Assessment

DATE: August 11, 2020

RE: 4K and 5K Readiness Assessments for Students with Disabilities

This memorandum and attached guidance provide information for ensuring meaningful participation for students with disabilities when taking the prekindergarten (4K) and kindergarten (5K) readiness assessments. The guidance document has been reformatted but the guidance and allowable accommodations have not changed since last year.

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act requires that Individualized Education Program (IEP) teams determine testing accommodations on statewide assessments that provide equitable access for students with disabilities that do not invalidate the test results. Most students with disabilities should be able to participate in readiness assessments as presented. However, some items may not be accessible for students with specific access needs.

The guidance provides recommendations for alternative modes of presentation and/or response options that provide access to the readiness assessments for students with disabilities. Local educational agencies and IEP teams should carefully review the guidance document before administering the readiness assessments.

These readiness assessments should also be administered to students who have significant cognitive disabilities and who may participate in future South Carolina alternate assessments using guidance. The selected readiness assessments are intended to measure a student's basic skills; therefore, these readiness assessments will provide valuable instructional information to teachers of all students.

August 11, 2020

If you have questions, please contact the following SCDE staff.

- Training for administration of readiness assessments: Tina Shaw at tshaw@ed.sc.gov
- IEP documentation: Jenny May at jmay@ed.sc.gov
- Accommodations and eligibility criteria for alternate assessments: Jill Christmus at mchristmus@ed.sc.gov.

Attachments: 4K and 5K Guidance on Assessing Students with Disabilities
Sample Notification Letter