Special Education Accommodations

Because all children deserve to be successful!
Accommodations VS Modifications

- Accommodations are changes in HOW students access information and demonstrates learning.
- Modifications are changes in WHAT a student is expected to learn.

www.peakparent.org
Rationale

All students thrive with opportunities to succeed. Accommodations provide those experiences for all children.
All students benefit when accommodations are implemented.
IDEA 2004

States that accommodations must be provided by districts in order to:

• Provide students with equal access
• Consider functional limitations
• Consider alternative methods of performance
Michigan Administrative Rules for Special Education (MARSE)

- Rule 340.1722a(4) states that each public agency shall provide special education and related services to a student with a disability in accordance with the student’s individualized education program.

- This includes implementation of accommodations in the general education classroom as well as in all settings in the school.
General and Special Education

- All students learn better when they are working within their “zone of proximal development”. For special education students this need is met with differentiated instruction and accommodations.
- All students learn the same benchmarks but they express their knowledge differently.
- For all students to feel safe and unthreatened, they may need additional encouragement and support.
How do accommodations look in a classroom?
ABC’s of Accommodations

By: Cincinnati Public Schools

www.cps_k12.org/programs/speced/ABCs.htm
• A  Alphabet strip taped to student’s desk
• B  Breaks to keep them calm and ready to learn
• C  Checklists and Computers
• D  Dictate assignments to student
• E  Extend time
• F  Flash cards
• G  Group cooperatively
• H  Highlight main ideas, specific words, or directions
• I  Instruction given orally and in print
• J  Journal writing could be done by drawing pictures
• K  Kids use planners to organize their work
• L  Large print is easier to read
• M  Manipulatives and Models
• N  Number lines and notebooks
• O Oral reports and tests instead of written ones
• P Paired reading, Peer tutors
• Q Quiet spaces or work areas
• R Read tests, directions, and assignments
• S Shorten assignments, smaller amounts, study guides
• T Tape stories
• U Use a test format that requires little writing
• V Visual aids including posted reminders
• W Wait time needs to be longer
• X Xerox copies of assignments for home
• Y Your tests could be open book or take home
• Z Zero in on reinforcing concepts through hands-on activities and games. We all like games!
More Examples of Accommodations

**Test Accommodations**
- Change essay to multiple choice
- No penalties for spelling errors
- Different test or worksheet
- Decrease the level of difficulty
- Decrease number of vocabulary words
- Allow use of notes
- Type on computer
- Give orally
- Length shortened
- Modify grading scale

**Pacing**
- Extended Time
- Breaks
- Vary activity
- Omit timed assignments
- Frequent verbal checks for understanding
Necessity of Accommodations

- All students learn in unique ways and therefore have unique challenges.

- A student’s ability to listen, think, speak, read, write, spell, or to do mathematical calculations may be affected by his or her disability.

- Differentiated instruction allows teachers to meet the needs of all learners.
Teachers respect that each task put before the learner will be interesting, engaging, and accessible to essential understanding and skills.

http://www.cast.org/publications/ncac/ncac_diffinstruc.html
How do I keep track of the accommodations?
Student Accommodation/Modification Reporting Form

General Education Class / Teacher

1. Please refer to the attached accommodation plan from this student’s IEP in order to familiarize yourself with the accommodations and modifications that you are mandated to provide.

2. Record all accommodations that you provide during your class on the chart below. Be sure to note the date for each instance.

3. Please turn this form in at the end of each marking period.

Thank you for your help. Your efforts will help our district to ensure compliance with state and federal monitoring standards for special education.

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Why do I have to include accommodations in every lesson?

- Individualized Education Programs are legal documents which include the supplementary services (accommodations)
- Accommodations “even the playing field” for all students.
Accommodations in standardized testing

- Accommodations on standardized tests should match the accommodations listed in the IEP.
- There should be common thread of need that runs from the present level statement through the goals and all assessments.
- The newly approved Revised Assessment Accommodation Summary Table can be downloaded at: OEAA Accommodations Summary Table
- MME Accommodations: Michigan Merit Exam Accommodations
Sources

- www.peakparent.org
- www.cps_k12.org/programs/speced/ABCs.htms
Links

- http://www.raisingsmallsoles.com
- http://www.nichcy.org/EducateChildren/Supports/Pages/default.aspx
- http://www.ldat.org/ld_info/accommodations.html
- www.interventioncentral.org