



# Accommodations vs. Modifications

	<b>Accommodations</b>	<b>Modifications</b>
<b><i>Classroom Instruction</i></b>	<p><b>Accommodations</b> can help students learn the same material and meet the same expectations as their classmates. If a student has reading issues, for example, she might listen to an audio recording of a text. There are different types of classroom accommodations, which may affect presentation (listening to an audio recording of a text) and/or setting (where a student sits in the room).</p>	<p>Some students who may struggle with the curriculum may need changes, or <b>modifications</b>, to the material. For example, a student could be assigned shorter or less-demanding reading assignments. Those who have modified programs are <i>not</i> expected to learn the same type or volume of material as their classmates.</p>
<b><i>Classroom Tests</i></b>	<p>Testing <b>accommodations</b> can be different from those used for instruction. For example, using a spell-checker might help a student with writing difficulties take notes during class but wouldn't be appropriate during a weekly spelling test. However, this student might benefit from extra time to complete the spelling test or using typing technology if the physical act of writing is difficult.</p>	<p><b>Modifications</b> in testing often involve requiring a student to cover less material or material that is less complex. For example, in the case of the spelling test, if the class was given 20 words to study, the student with modifications might only have to study 10 of them or she might have a completely different list of words.</p>
<b><i>Standardized Testing</i></b>	<p>Statewide assessments allow certain <b>accommodations</b> like extra time, circling directly in the test booklet or using a calculator. Ideally, these are the same accommodations a child uses to take class tests.</p>	<p>Some students take an alternate assessment in which the questions in this type of alternate assessment might not cover the same materials as the standard exams. Also, the results would be interpreted differently. Before you agree to an alternate assessment, find out how the results will be interpreted and what (if any) implications there will be for your child.</p>