Assessment Accommodations

FOR COMPUTER BASED ASSESSMENTS

This document is provided to guide personnel who are universally designing computer based formative or summative assessments as measures of student progress in achieving state educational standards so that these assessments allow access for all students in the Houston Independent School District (ISD). This applies to both personnel inside the district (classroom teachers, school instructional leaders, and district curriculum personnel) and vendor representatives presenting assessment products for consideration for purchase by the Houston ISD.

ACCOMMODATION DEFINED

An *accommodation* as used in this document allows all students to respond to the same assessment with options to personalize the timing and formatting of the assessment as well as the sensory systems and tools used to interact with and respond to the assessment. Accommodations do not alter the learner objective to be measured by the assessment. Accommodations provided in computer based assessments are embedded within the assessment to allow the student to be as independent as possible in utilizing the accommodations.

TEXAS STANDARD FEATURES

The following accommodation features are currently built into accommodated versions of computer based state assessments.

Text-to-speech

Text-to-speech functionality is the ability of the computer to read aloud allowable portions of an assessment as defined by the state. The user can customize the reading rate, voice, and volume. This feature also provides highlighting synchronized with the read aloud by word and sentence.

Reference Materials

Reference materials may include a spell-checker tool, an electronic dictionary, thesaurus, single word bilingual dictionaries, and a glossary of terms (math, science and technology). These again are provided aligned to the state allowable accommodation guidelines for the type of assessment.

Pop Ups and Roll Overs

Pop ups and roll overs are picture or text prompts that pop up when selected by the student or appear when the student rolls the cursor over the prompt. These prompts provide visual representations (pictures of words, graphic organizers), allowable supplemental aids (graphs, charts, formulas) or reword phrases to provide better clarity. These features can also be used to isolate key words for students to attend to or to refer a student to a reference material provided in the assessment.

Magnification

Magnification is the ability for the student to zoom in or out on the assessment without compromising the visual clarity of the assessment.

Organizational Tools

Organizational tools are highlighters, underlining, or circling tools that allow the student to mark, underline, or highlight key words and phrases in an assessment

Color Contrast

Color contrast is the ability for the student to personalize the foreground and background colors of the assessment to achieve the text and document background color scheme that best suits the student's visual discrimination skills and preferences.

HOUSTON ISD ACCOMMODATION FEATURES

The above listed accommodation features are preferred accommodation features for all computer based assessments provided in the Houston ISD. When these features are not made available in a vendor developed assessment, then in keeping with the Houston ISD *Supplemental Agreement to the Texas Instructional Materials Contract*, these features may be made available for students using the Kurzweil 3000 software.

Teachers and specialists, when developing assessments, can make all of the preferred features available using the Kurzweil 3000 software. For accommodation support, contact the Office of Special Education, 713-556-7025.

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