All About Accommodations

MACAE Spring Institute
March 18, 2022
Agenda

- Overview
- Disability categories
- Accommodation process
- Documentation requirements
- Best way to assist
- Questions
Accommodations Overview

Purpose of Accommodations

Not a Guarantee of improvement

Individualized Consideration

Appropriate Documentation
Categories of Disabilities

- **Learning and Other Cognitive Disabilities**: Documentation within the last 5 years
- **Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder**: Documentation within the last 5 years
- **Psychological and Psychiatric Disorders**: Documentation within the last 1 year
- **Physical Disorders and Chronic Health Conditions**: Documentation within the last 1 year
What is NOT considered a disability?

- ESL
- “Slow Learner”
- Active substance abuser
- Test anxiety
- Homemade diagnoses
Commonly Requested Accommodations

- Extra time
- Extra "stop-the-clock" breaks
- Separate room
- Reader/recorder
Documentation Guidelines

Review documentation guidelines
https://ged.com/about_test/accommodations/
# Accommodation Request Volume

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Approved/Partial Approval</th>
<th>Incomplete</th>
<th>Denied</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>0</td>
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Top 3 causes of an incomplete application

1. No supporting documentation
2. Missing pages
3. Outdated documentation
Accommodation System Features

Online Request System

- Candidates request accommodations online. Starts with them clicking “yes” to the accommodation question on GED.com

Web Scheduling

- Candidates with approvals of extra time, breaks and other things that do not require manual intervention are directed to schedule online.
Assistive Technology

Universal Access features

Adaptive equipment

Magnification

JAWS
Emerging Trends in Accommodations and Accessibility

- Accommodation vs Fundamental Alteration
- Accommodations vs Security
- Non-standard requests
Accommodation Review Process

• Who reviews requests?

• How are determinations made?
  • Consider all documentation
  • Continual calibration
  • Written explanations
How can you help your students?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Comfort aid list</th>
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<tr>
<td>Lower cost testing clinics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assist with paperwork</td>
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<tr>
<td>Encourage starting the process early</td>
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<tr>
<td>Act as an advocate</td>
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GED TESTING SERVICE
Outer Limits of Accommodations

- Unlimited time
  The accommodation cannot be so extreme that test validity is compromised

- Waiving a portion of the test
  The accommodation cannot fundamentally alter the test’s purpose

- Administer medical care
  The accommodation cannot jeopardize test security or the safety of staff/others
Resources on the Accommodation Page

Additional Resources

- Frequently Asked Questions
- Lower-cost Testing Clinics in the United States
- Personal Items and Minor Modifications

Questions? Email accommodations@GED.com.
Resources

Accommodation page
• https://ged.com/about_test/accommodations/

Paper request forms
• https://ged.com/educators_admins/test_admin/corrections/

Contact us!
• accommodations@ged.com
Questions?
Contact Information

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