

DOS AND DON'TS WHEN SELECTING ACCOMMODATIONS

Do	Don't
make accommodation decisions based on individualized needs	make accommodation decisions based on whatever is easiest to do (e.g., reading to student or scribing instead of using technology)
select accommodations that reduce the effect of the disability to access instruction and demonstrate learning	select accommodations unrelated to documented student learning needs select accommodations intended to give students an unfair advantage
be certain to document instructional and assessment accommodation(s) on the IEP, Section 504, or other formal plans	routinely use an accommodation that has not been documented on the IEP, 504 or other formal plan
be familiar with the types of accommodations that can be used as both instructional and assessment accommodations	assume that all instructional accommodations are appropriate for use on state assessments
be specific about the "Why, What, Where, When, Who, and How" of providing accommodations. Keep service logs or other forms of documentation of accommodation use and effectiveness	simply indicate an accommodation will be provided "as appropriate" or "as necessary"
refer to state accommodation policies and understand implications of selections	check every accommodation possible on a checklist simply to be "safe"
evaluate accommodations used with input from the student	assume the same accommodations remain appropriate year after year or that the student is willing to use the accommodation
get input about accommodations from teachers, parents, and students, and use it to make decisions at a meeting for the IEP, Section 504 or other formal plans	make decisions about instructional and assessment accommodations alone
Routinely provide accommodations for classroom instruction	provide an assessment accommodation for the first time on the day of a test
select accommodations based on specific individual needs in each content area	assume certain accommodations, such as extra time, are appropriate for every student in every content area