



Advocates for Children of New York

Protecting every child's right to learn

Testing Accommodations for Students with Disabilities Applying to College

The College Board, which administers the SAT, PSAT, and AP exams, grants testing accommodations for students with appropriate documentation. Please note that students who have IEPs or 504 plans do not automatically get accommodations on the college board tests even if they receive accommodations on state standardized tests in high school.

Accommodations are available in the following areas:

1. presentation (large type, reader, audiotapes)
2. responding (scribe, large block answer sheet, tape recorder, computer)
3. timing/scheduling (extended time, extra breaks)
4. setting (separate location, special seating)

Anyone applying for accommodations must provide the following information:

1. A diagnosis of the specific disability;
2. Current evaluations;
3. Relevant medical, educational, and developmental history;
4. A description of the testing used to diagnosis the disability, with test results and subtest scores;
5. A description of the student's functional limitations;
6. The specific accommodations requested; and
7. The evaluator's professional credentials.

Evaluations generally are considered current within five years. However, psychiatric, physical or medical evaluations must be updated annually, and documentation of visual disabilities must be current within two years. The College Board accepts some of the tests that are done by the Department of Education (DOE), including:

1. The WISC-IV or WAIS-III
2. The Stanford-Binet
3. The Woodcock-Johnson or WIAT (for academic testing)

Keep in mind that the DOE frequently administers sub-tests to students and not the full battery of testing. Make sure well ahead of time that a student has complete and up-to-date evaluations.

A student who wishes to receive accommodations can work with his or her school to submit a request online to the College Board's Services for Students with Disabilities. The student's parent also must sign a consent form. Alternatively, a student can mail a Student Eligibility Form directly to the College Board. Applications must be submitted at least seven weeks before the student plans on taking the test. Students should apply during their freshman year of high school.

The parent or student will receive a letter in the mail either identifying the approved accommodation or explaining why accommodations were not approved. The school will also receive an email with the decision. This letter contains a "Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD)" Code, which must be included on the SAT registration. Once approved, the SSD Code can be used for future tests and students do not need to reapply.

For more information, visit the College Board's website at www.collegeboard.org.

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This fact sheet does not constitute legal advice. This fact sheet attempts to summarize existing policies or laws without stating the opinion of AFC. If you have a legal problem, please contact an attorney or advocate.

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