



2017 CSDE LAS Links Accommodation Guidelines



CTB

CSDE LAS Links Accommodation Guidelines



- Continued Support for English Learners in Connecticut
- Greater opportunity to meet exit criteria
- Begin collecting accommodations information for students who are English Learners **and** students with disabilities.
- Record only that eligible students will be using one or more accommodations as described
- Accommodations parallel those identified for Smarter Balanced and CMT/CAPT Science.
- At this time, CSDE does not require any additional documentation or a Special Accommodations Petition for Read Aloud for passages or scribe on the CSDE LAS Links

In our continuing efforts to support English Learners in Connecticut, CSDE will begin collecting accommodations information for students who are English Learners and students with disabilities. During this information gathering stage, we ask you to record only that eligible students will be using one or more accommodations listed in this presentation, and not identifying which accommodation at this time. Please note that these accommodations parallel those identified for Smarter Balanced and CMT/CAPT Science. At this time, CSDE does not require any additional documentation or a Special Accommodations Petition for Read Aloud for passages or scribe on the CSDE LAS Links.

Demographic Information- Which Students



- For Paper Pencil Tests
 - Teacher/proctor enters EL student demographic information on paper test form if student does NOT have a Pre-ID label including:
 - Students who have been entered into PSIS after the October 1 Collection
 - Students who have moved into a new school or district after October 1
 - Students who are recently identified as English Learners
- For Online Tests
 - Student demographic information is provided to DRC by CSDE from PSIS data

Accurate demographic information is critical to providing accurate reports and ultimately information for your districts accountability. The information provided by the teacher/proctor on the paper tests should reflect information that is current and reflected in the PSIS system. The online demographics are provided to DRC/CTB by CSDE from the information in the PSIS. It is updated at regular intervals to capture student changes and is reflected in the online testing system.

Eligibility for Accommodations on CSDE LAS Links



For every student participating, for each applicable subtest the student must meet **each** of the following components of the eligibility criteria:

- 1. Student is identified as an English Learner;
AND
- 2. Student is a student with an active IEP or Section 504 plan; **AND**
- 3. Student requires one or more of the accommodations described in the 2017 CSDE LAS Links Accommodation Guidelines



As mentioned earlier this year we will be requesting that you record if a student is using accommodation(s) on the LAS Links. For those of you familiar with the LAS Links this is associated with Category 3. Students eligible to use accommodations on the LAS Links assessment must be an EL student and identified as special education, or an EL student using a Section 504 plan.

CSDE LAS Links

Accommodations Category 3

- Available only to eligible students who are English Learners with a disability
- Student requires one or more of the accommodations listed below:
 - Alternate response Options* (Assistive Technology or Alternate or Augmentative Communication)
 - Braille
 - Large Print
 - Read Aloud for reading passages – Only allowed for section 504 and Special Education students.
 - Scribe
 - Sign Language
 - Speech to Text #
 - Text To Speech #

*Pending Compatibility with Online Testing Platform

Not available in Online testing at this time



These are the accommodations we consider for category 3, that eligible students may be provided. These are consistent with Connecticut's other statewide assessments. It is expected that these are clearly stated in the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Section 504 plan. This year you will record **only** for category 3, not Category 1 or 2.

Specific Accommodations Category 3

- Available only for eligible students who are English learners with a disability

Accommodation	Description	Recommendations for Use
Alternate Response Options/Assistive Technology	<p>The student is able to use assistive technology, to support typing on customized keyboards, assistance with using a mouse, mouth or head stick or other pointing devices, sticky keys.</p> <p>Some devices are currently not supported for LAS Links / To check compatibility: https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B9h6L4JvPeXUSjQ3T1ZCaDF3Nnc/view</p>	Students who have difficulty manipulating a mouse or standard keyboard may need an alternative device.

English learners who are also special education or using Section 504 plans may use assistive technology or alternate response options as described in their IEP or section 504 plan. For example if a student has a physical disability and requires a joy stick or larger keyboard with sticky keys to respond they may use these devices on the LAS Links. To ensure the student's devices are compatible with the testing platform we encourage you to go to the practice site to confirm that it works. If it does not please call the student assessment office to discuss access options.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B9h6L4JvPeXUSjQ3T1ZCaDF3Nnc/view>

Specific Accommodations Category 3 (cont.)



Accommodation	Description	Recommendations for Use
Braille	<p>A raised-dot code that individuals read with the fingertips. Graphic material (e.g., maps, charts, graphs, diagrams, and illustrations) is presented in a raised format (paper, thermoform, or refreshable braille). Both contracted and un-contracted braille for lower levels</p> <p><i>LAS Links offers Braille Paper version</i></p> <p><i>To order Braille test materials: Contact Customer service at 800-538-9547 option 1</i></p>	Students who are blind or have lowvision may read text via braille.
Large print test booklet	<p>A large print form of the test that is provided to the student with a visual impairment. The font size for the large print form is 18/20 points on paper sized 11 x 17.</p> <p><i>LAS Links offers Large Print Paper version</i></p> <p><i>To order Large Print Test Booklets: Contact Customer Service at 800-538-9547 option 1</i></p>	Students with visual impairments who may not be able to use zoom or magnifying devices to access the test and may need a large print version of the form.

Students with disabilities related to vision may need to access a Braille or Large Print version of the test. You will need to contact customer service to obtain these materials.

Specific Accommodations Category 3 (cont.)



Accommodation	Description	Recommendations for Use
Read Aloud	Text is read aloud to the student by an experienced educator.	Students who are struggling readers or who have reading-related disabilities may need assistance accessing the assessment by having all or portions of the assessment read aloud. The use of this accommodation may require additional time to complete the assessment.
Scribe	The student dictates her/his responses to an experienced educator who records verbatim what the student dictates.	Students who have documented significant motor or language processing difficulties, or who have had a recent injury (such as a broken hand or arm) that makes it difficult to produce responses may need to dictate their responses to a human, who then records the students' responses verbatim either in the test platform or on paper. The use of this accommodation may result in the student needing additional time to complete the assessment. For these students, dictating to a scribe is the only way to demonstrate their composition skills.
Sign Language	An experienced educator provides test content in sign language that is appropriate for eligible students who are deaf or hard of hearing.	The Sign Language accommodation allows an experienced educator to provide test content in a communication mode that is appropriate for eligible students who are deaf or hard of hearing.

These accommodations in our statewide assessment for special education or Section 504 students are the most restrictive and typically require additional documentation and approval. We are more restrictive when there is an additional person included with the student in the testing process. This process is the special accommodations petition process. For the 2017 testing of LAS Links we are not requiring this additional documentation. We are asking you to record only if one or more accommodation is used not which accommodation is used. As with all accommodations you will need to do due diligence to confirm all these accommodations are in the IEP or section 504 plan and to provide them during testing. Before providing the Read Aloud accommodation be sure that the Read Aloud accommodation is described in the IEP or section 504 plan and specifies if it applies to reading passages.

Specific Accommodations Category 3 (cont.)

Accommodation	Description	Recommendations for Use
Speech-to-text	<p>The student uses software to dictate responses or give commands during the test which would appear on the computer.</p> <p>N/A for online testing. This accommodation is not yet available for the LAS Links therefore students utilizing this accommodation should work with an experienced educator acting as a scribe.</p>	Students who have documented motor or processing disabilities (such as dyslexia) or who have had a recent injury that make it difficult to produce text or commands using computer keys may need alternative ways to work with computers. If students use their own assistive technology devices, all assessment content should be deleted from these devices after the test for security purposes.
Text-to-speech	<p>Text is read aloud to student via embedded text technology.</p> <p>N/A for Online testing. This accommodation is not yet available for LAS Links. Students requiring this accommodation should be provided the Read Aloud accommodation by an experienced educator.</p>	Students who are struggling readers or who have reading-related disabilities may need assistance accessing the assessment by having all or portions of the assessment read aloud. The use of this accommodation may require additional time to complete the assessment.

The two accommodations indicated here will be found in students' IEPs or Section 504 plans. Neither are currently available in the online LAS Links. The accommodation of Speech to Text allows a student to voice their response and software the student uses during instruction provides this response as text on the computer. For this year we would recommend the use of a scribe in place of speech to text to support the student's needs. Text to speech is the accommodation in which the computer reads text to the student. We would recommend the use of a person to provide the read aloud accommodation instead of Text to Speech for the 2017 testing.

Recording Accommodations Considerations



- **IMPORTANT:** Before you get started, your District English Learner (EL) Director will need to acquire temporary Administrator credentials from DRC to be able to record Accommodations online for students identified as an English Learner and a student with a disability. Only the Director on file by DRC will be able to receive the temporary credentials.
- When recording Accommodations, **DO NOT** change any other part of the student demographic data already registered in the system.
- Be sure to check the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) policies regarding administering specific Accommodations to ELs.

These are considerations to keep in mind when working through the accommodation recording process.

Recording Accommodations

- To indicate Accommodations (paper form):
 - Fill in the Accommodations Section (Section 12) inside the front cover of the test book
 - Bubble in only **Category 3**

DRC | **CTB**



For the paper test version the accommodation information has not been included on the pre-code label. You will need to manually record on test booklets for any students who receives any type of accommodation by following these steps:

In accordance with the 2017 CSDE LAS Links Accommodation Guidelines Category 3 is the only category you are required to record as applicable for each of the domains for which the Accommodation(s) are administered.

When marking the Accommodations category on the test booklet, **DO NOT** change any other part of the student demographic data already provided on the student label.

- Category 3 = Accommodations for CSDE LAS Links
- choose Category 3 when any accommodation(s) defined in CSDE LAS Links Accommodation Guidelines are provided to eligible students.

The online process for recording Category 3 for accommodations will be

discussed in Module 2 and is also in the LAS Links Online Testing manual.

Contact Information



Accommodations questions for the CSDE LAS
Links can be directed to :

Student Assessment Office	Janet Stuck
860-713-6860	860-713-6837
CTStudentAssessment@ct.gov	Janet.stuck@ct.gov