

## Are Teachers Required to Provide All Accommodations & Modifications Listed in the Child's IEP?

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"Your site has been useful in my legal research and in my day-to-day work as an regular education inclusion teacher."

"My question concerns accommodations and modifications in the the IEP. If an accommodation or modification is marked in the IEP, is the regular ed teacher required to include that accommodation on every test or activity they create? For example, if "word bank" is marked, does the teacher have to include a word bank on everything? And what about a calculator - can the teacher make an assignment where students are not allowed to use calculators?"

### Pete Answers

You will not find a clear answer to your question in the statute, regulations, or caselaw (all three are in our book, *Wrightslaw: Special Education Law*). IDEA 2004 does include new language about accommodations guidelines and accommodations on state and district tests.

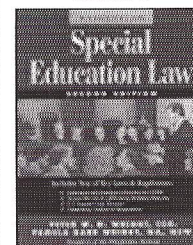
Your question goes to the specific skill or content area that is being taught and how the child's learning (mastery of the skill or content area) will be measured. For example, assume the child is studying history. The school will measure the child's knowledge of history on an essay test. Assume that this child has severe dysgraphia (a learning disability in writing). An essay test is also a test of penmanship. On essay tests, the child must produce information by putting pen to paper.

Will an essay test measure this child's knowledge of history? Or will this essay test measure the child's disability (inability to write)? In this case, an appropriate modification may be to allow the child to write answers using a computer. The purpose of testing is to find out what the child has learned.

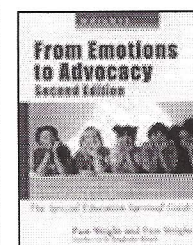
When teachers read an IEP and did not have input into the document, they often have reasonable and logical questions about how the IEP is to be implemented. If you need additional information about a student's needs (and you probably do) and what the IEP requires you

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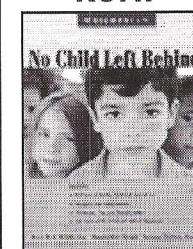


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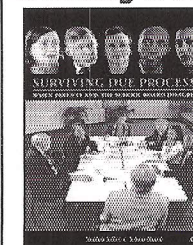
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