

# Special Education Words to Know: Accommodations & Modifications



## Accommodations

Changes in **HOW** a student accesses information and demonstrates learning. It does not change the instruction level or content. Accommodations provide the student with equal access to learning and showing what they learned.

## Modifications

Changes in **WHAT** a student is being taught and expected to learn. The curriculum is being modified to fit the students learning ability and style and they are not expected to learn the same material as their classmates.

### Examples of Accommodations

Use of audio books instead of reading text

Get a written list of instructions

Use a calculator, spell checker or dictionary

Assistive technology & sensory tools

Testing in small groups or a quiet room

More time for completing tests or assignments

Built-in breaks throughout the day

Use an alarm or timer

Use of captions on videos

### Examples of Modifications

Complete different homework problems

Answer different test questions

Create alternate assignments / projects

Use of alternate books

Simplified vocabulary

Fewer answer options in a multiple choice test

Changes to the grade level curriculum

Taking alternate statewide assessments

A pass / no pass instead of a letter grade

#### Sources

<https://www.understood.org/en/articles/common-classroom-accommodations-and-modifications>

<https://www.smartkidswithld.org/getting-help/the-abcs-of-ieps/iep-planning-accommodations-modifications/>

<https://blog.brookespublishing.com/4-types-of-accommodations-and-modifications-to-support-student-success/>

October 2023  
SPIN News

