



# PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA


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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION June St. Clair Atkinson, Ed.D., *State Superintendent*

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TO: LEA Testing Directors/Coordinators  
LEA Exceptional Children Directors

FROM:   
Louis M. Fabrizio, Director  
Division of Accountability Services

Mary N. Watson, Director   
Exceptional Children Division

SUBJECT: Changes in Testing Accommodations

This letter is being sent to clarify policies that ensure students have adequate time to routinely use approved accommodations in instruction and similar classroom assessments prior to the accommodations being used on a statewide assessment. In order for a student with disabilities to be eligible to receive a testing accommodation, it must be documented in his/her Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Section 504 Plan **and it must be used routinely during instruction and similar classroom assessments**. In order to allow sufficient time for the testing accommodations to be routinely used there should not be additions/changes to the testing accommodations in the IEP or Section 504 Plan just prior to testing unless the student's eligibility status has changed (i.e. the student exits EC identification). This is to ensure that students have experience using the accommodations during instruction and similar classroom assessments.

Beginning with the 2006-07 school year, if a student does not have at least 30 calendar days prior to the test date to use the accommodation then the use of the accommodation cannot be considered "routinely used" during instruction or similar classroom assessments. If a student is newly identified as having a disability and it is just prior to testing, any testing accommodations that are documented and implemented should have been used as intervention prior to identification. Please be reminded that the use of testing accommodations that are not routinely used during instruction or similar classroom assessments is a misadministration and results in invalid test scores. Instructional accommodations can and should be used/changed as appropriate.

LMF:MNW:pfb

C: Regional Accountability Coordinators  
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