



| Policy Name | Test Accommodations |
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1. Overview:

This policy describes the accommodations that can be made for *BEST Plus* and *BEST Literacy* for students with disabilities.

2. The Policy:

Purpose and use of *BEST Plus*

According to the test publisher, programs administering *BEST Plus* and *BEST Literacy* are responsible for providing accessible services and for making sure that requests for accommodations are considered and handled in a manner consistent with applicable laws and regulations. Program and test administrators may provide and allow accommodation in test administration procedures or in the testing environment for individuals with disabilities, provided that the accommodation does not compromise the purpose of the test. Testing environment accommodations for either test might include frequent breaks or individual administration of *BEST Literacy*.

In the case of *BEST Literacy*, the purpose of the test is to obtain a measure of reading and writing in English. Permissible accommodations related to *BEST Literacy* test administration include the use of eyeglasses or magnifying glasses, earplugs, color overlays, or rulers (*Test Manual*, pp. 9-10).

The purpose of *BEST Plus* is to obtain a measure of listening and speaking in English. Permissible accommodations related to *BEST Plus* include the use of hearing aids. *BEST Plus* is not designed to assess the communicative language skills of hearing- or speech-impaired students, nor should it be used with visually impaired students, as some of the questions depend on a photographic stimulus.

It is not an appropriate accommodation for a test administrator to read *BEST Literacy* test questions to an examinee with sight impairment as *BEST Literacy* is a test of reading. Similarly, it is not an appropriate accommodation for a *BEST Plus* test administrator to allow an examinee to read the on-screen prompts as *BEST Plus* is a listening, not a reading, test.

3. Scope:

This policy applies to programs and test administrators.

4. References:

For more information, consult the *BEST Plus Technical Report*, *BEST Literacy Technical Report*, *BEST Plus Test Administrator Guide*, *BEST Literacy Test Manual*. The *BEST Plus Technical Report* and *BEST Literacy Technical Report* are available for purchase online from CAL Store at www.cal.org/store for \$10 as a downloadable PDF or \$25 for a bound copy.

Center for Applied Linguistics. (2005). *BEST Plus Technical Report*. Washington, DC: Author

Center for Applied Linguistics. (2008). *BEST Literacy Technical Report*. Washington, DC: Author

Center for Applied Linguistics. (2005). *BEST Plus Test Administrator Guide*. Washington, DC: Author

Center for Applied Linguistics. (2008). *BEST Literacy Test Manual*. Washington, DC: Author