

Allowable Accommodations for All Students

Changes in Test Environment	
Time	
Scheduled extra time	The test administrator should extend the amount of time allotted for each section of the test, if needed, to allow students to finish the test without having to rush. The PSSA is not a timed test. However, do not allow any overnight extensions. Students must have sufficient time to <u>complete</u> a section prior to the end of the school day. The sections of the assessment must be administered in the sequence required in the administrator's manual. On subsequent days, students are not permitted to revisit a section. Students can request extended time at any time during the assessment process as long as they are working productively. If a school schedules more than one test section per day, multiple test sessions (days) may be scheduled for a student(s) who requires extended time. Students may not break and discuss the test items during the extended time. The test administrator may schedule opportunities for students to move around the room and/or take breaks. Students should be monitored during any break to ensure test security.
Place	
Classroom adaptations	Preferential seating arrangements may help students concentrate or feel more comfortable. Adaptive/special furniture (e.g., study carrel, table space for large print assessment materials) may be helpful for students. To reduce distraction, a student may need to be tested in a room separate from the larger group.
Testing in a separate room	Arrangements should be made to allow for the testing of a student who is a patient in a hospital setting during the testing period.
Hospital/home testing	Arrangements should also be made to allow for the testing of a student who is confined to the home during the testing period.
Grouping	
Small group testing	Some students may require a testing environment with fewer students. Other students may require testing in a setting separate from all other students.
Other	Other accommodations, not listed here, may be available and appropriate for the student as long as the accommodations do not compromise the integrity of the assessment. Contact the PDE Bureau of Assessment and Accountability if you have any questions at (717)787-4234 or (717)705-2343.
Assistive Devices/Special Arrangements	
Word processor or typewriter	You might have a few students who normally use a word processor or typewriter as part of their regular classroom accommodations. For example, you may have students whose handwriting is so illegible that it cannot be scored. For those students, use of a word processor or typewriter is an appropriate and acceptable accommodation for the PSSA. Schools must determine which students will need this accommodation and plan accordingly so that the equipment is available during the testing period. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spell checker, grammar checker, word prediction and other supports must be turned off. Students may use the typing function only. A test administrator must transcribe the student's responses into his/her PSSA Answer Booklet. A test administrator may not alter student answers under any circumstances.
Reference materials	The only reference material allowed is a copy of the original formula sheet and general scoring guidelines provided in the Assessment Handbook posted on the PDE website and in the Handbook for Assessment Coordinators. <i>The only exception is for students who have a documented need for number lines specified in an IEP, 504 Service Plan or ELL program.</i>
Paper, reading windows and highlighters	Special paper such as graph paper, large lined, or widely spaced paper may be used. Highlighters, place markers, graph paper, and reading windows are also allowable. Reading windows, also called "window frames" (paper guide with a hole cut out) are used to help students focus. In addition, students may use scratch paper, but any markings on the scratch paper will not be scored. Answers must be transcribed onto the PSSA Answer Booklet.

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Adapted Test Forms	
Other Accommodations	
Student marks in test booklet	<p>In grades 4-8 and 11 students may mark answers in the test booklet, including drawings and graphics. Highlighters may also be used. Responses must be transferred into the PSSA Answer Booklet.</p> <p>In grade 3, students respond directly in the PSSA Test Booklet. They may use highlighters, but must be very careful to avoid stray marks. Students should avoid marking the bubbles, avoid marking in the open-ended response areas, and avoid marking the black marks along the edges of the paper. If a highlighter mark strays over the answer bubble, the item cannot be scored correctly.</p> <p>Only pencil may be used to fill in bubbles.</p> <p>If a student marks the incorrect answer, there must be a complete removal of that marking or it will be scored as incorrect with two answers. You may have a few students who normally dictate their answers to a scribe as part of their regular classroom accommodations. For example, you may have students whose handwriting is so illegible it cannot be scored or who have a broken arm. For those students, use of a scribe is an appropriate and acceptable accommodation for the Math, Reading, and Science PSSA.</p> <p>School personnel must determine which students need this accommodation and plan accordingly so the equipment is available during the testing period.</p> <p>On the Writing prompt, dictation is <u>not</u> allowed, but the administrator may transcribe illegible handwriting or a student-typed response. A test administrator must transcribe the student's responses into his/her PSSA Answer Booklet. They may not alter the student answers under any circumstances.</p>
Dictation to a test administrator (scribe)	<p>Directions for all assessments may be read aloud.</p> <p>Multiple-choice and stimulus passages on the Writing test may <u>not</u> be read to students. The writing prompt is read aloud as part of the directions. The test administrator may not explain or define any part of the writing prompt.</p> <p>Test administrators are not allowed to read any portion, multiple-choice and open-ended, of the Reading assessment <i>except for the directions.</i></p> <p>Questions may be read aloud for Mathematics and Science only for the small number of individual students who might need this accommodation.</p> <p>A test administrator may <u>not</u> define a word.</p> <p>Test administrator may mark a PSSA Answer booklet at the direction of the student for multiple-choice questions only. For example, with multiple-choice questions only, the student may point to his/her response and the test administrator must record the student's responses in his/her PSSA Answer Booklet.</p> <p>A test administrator may use visual cues in the assessment directions, such as highlighters and colored stickers.</p> <p>Students may use visual cues throughout the assessment.</p> <p>The test administrator may simplify the language of the directions, repeat directions as necessary, read directions in English or the native language, and have students explain directions aloud to confirm understanding. The test administrator may not explain or define any part of the writing prompts.</p>
Reading aloud	
Marking an answer booklet at student direction	
Providing visual cues	
Simplifying directions	