

DEMYSTIFYING TEST ACCOMMODATIONS

September 24, 2015

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- **How Students Qualify for Test Accommodations**
- **Test Accommodations Application Procedures**
- **Standardized Tests Administered at New Trier**
- **Standardized Tests Overview**

IDEA v. ADA Standards

Testing agencies provide accommodations to individuals based on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). These standards are more stringent than the standards used by schools in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) v. Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA):

IDEA (Educational Benefit)	ADA (Testing Benefit)
School district's responsibility to identify a student's disability.	Students must self-identify.
A student with a disability that adversely affects educational performance is entitled to an education, and necessary accommodations and/or modifications that are designed to meet the student's unique needs and from which the student receives educational benefits.	ADA does not guarantee that students receive an education from which they receive educational benefit. Students have access to the same free appropriate public education that is available to children who are not disabled.
School district develops IEP to define educational supports and services that will be provided under special education (educational benefit).	Accommodations must be consistent with ADA requirements, and appropriate and reasonable for the documented disability. To fall within the protection of ADA, a person's physical or mental impairment must have a substantial limitation (permanent or temporary) on one or more major life activities - caring for oneself, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning or working; the critical question is whether a student's impairment substantially limits the ability to learn.

Summary:

IDEA – Test Accommodations are identified by IEP and 504 teams, and apply to all testing situations within the New Trier High School curriculum.

ADA – Test accommodations are identified by stricter ADA requirements that may not mirror IEP or 504 determinations. To fall within the protection of ADA, a person's physical or mental impairment must have a substantial limitation on one or more major life activities.

How Do Students Qualify For Test Accommodations?

Disability Documentation for Standardized Testing

ACT and the College Board, in deciding a student's testing accommodation, typically consider the date the student was originally diagnosed, the date of the most recent reconfirmation of diagnosis, and the person making that diagnosis. They also consider the cognitive and achievement test data, the IEP or 504 Plan listing the accommodations regularly used in the classroom, and the length of time the accommodation plan has been in place.

New Trier has no direct influence over the testing agencies' decision to provide accommodations; however, we will assist you and your New Trier student in filing the application with supporting documentation to ACT and the College Board.

Occasionally testing organizations request an updated evaluation that includes IQ and achievement tests. The most recent school evaluation may not meet the testing agencies' requirements. High schools are not obligated to provide testing for private agencies; it is the family's responsibility.

Further information regarding ACT and SAT requirements can be found online at www.act.org and www.collegeboard.com respectively.

Disability Evaluation at New Trier

All public schools are mandated by law to conduct 3-year re-evaluations of students receiving special education services. The purpose of the re-evaluation is to determine continuing eligibility for services, and to provide information for IEP planning.

Evaluations use a variety of methods, which may include:

- ✓ Evaluation of current performance through review of grades, teacher reports and observations
- ✓ Review of previous evaluations and information
- ✓ Standardized tests, rating scales
- ✓ Progress on IEP goals

One-to-one testing using standardized measures (e.g. Wechsler scales, Woodcock-Johnson) are only indicated if the testing results provide information to guide *current instruction* or lead to a change in placement during high school.

New Trier High School

Test Accommodations Procedures

2015-2016

1. The Testing Coordinator generates applications for accommodations on all standardized tests at the request of the student or parent/guardian.
2. The Testing Coordinator will complete the application and forward to the parent/guardian for their signature and required information. An instruction sheet will be attached to aid in the completion and mailing of applications to the testing company.
3. Decision letters will be mailed by the testing company to the students' home.

Please remember that accommodation decisions for standardized tests (PSAT, SAT, ACT and AP) are made by the testing companies, which use the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) criteria for accommodations. These standards are much more stringent than Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act (IDEA) standards. Some students who receive accommodations at New Trier do not qualify for accommodations under ADA.

Standardized test accommodations applications are generated by the Testing Coordinator at the request of the student/parent. All information recorded on the application is part of the student's special education file. The Testing Coordinator will also complete a section of the application verifying accommodations received at New Trier. Consent by the student/parent is given before mailing by affixing required signatures. New Trier provides as much information and support as possible to our students and parents as they go through the registration process.

Helpful Information

New Trier School Code: 144-430

ACT Test Center Code: 209800

SAT Test Center Code: 14585

ACT website: www.actstudent.org

ACT Customer Service: 319-337-1313

ACT Test Accommodations Department: (319) 337-1851

www.act.org/aap/disab/policy.html

College Board website: www.collegeboard.com/testing

SAT Customer Service: (866) 756-7346

SAT Services for Students with Disabilities: (609) 771-7137

<http://professionals.collegeboard.com/testing/ssd>

New Trier High School Academic Services Staff

Linda Knier Director of Academic Services

Peg Stevens Testing Coordinator/Test Accommodations Coordinator

Standardized Tests Administered at New Trier

Sophomores	PLAN Test (Pre-ACT) Pre-approval NOT necessary for accommodations Receives same accommodations as listed on 504 Plan or IEP	October 14
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	PARCC Testing Pre-Approval NOT necessary for accommodations Receives same accommodations as listed on 504 Plan or IEP	April
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Juniors	PSAT/NMSQT (Pre-SAT) and National Merit Qualifier <u>Pre-approval is necessary for accommodations</u>	October 14
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	Practice ACT Pre-approval NOT necessary for accommodations Receives same accommodations as listed on 504 Plan or IEP	January 30
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	PARCC Testing Pre-Approval NOT necessary for accommodations Receives same accommodations as listed on 504 Plan or IEP	April
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	ACT District TESTING <u>Pre-approval necessary for accommodations</u>	April 19
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	Advanced Placement Exams <u>Pre-approval necessary for accommodations</u>	May 2-13
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	ACT – SAT-SAT Subject <u>Pre-approval necessary for accommodations</u>	As Desired
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Seniors	Advanced Placement Exams <u>Pre-approval necessary for accommodations</u>	May 3-13
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	ACT – SAT/SAT Subject <u>Pre-approval necessary for accommodations</u>	As Desired
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Standardized Tests Overview

PLAN (Pre-ACT)

- October testing for sophomores
- Similar to ACT with an additional career component
- \$20.00 fee on fee bill
- Students receive personalized feedback on their test performance as well as career planning considerations
- Score reports and actual test books sent home after winter break
- Scores CANNOT be used for college admissions
- **Accommodations:** Same as noted on New Trier 504 or IEP Plans

PSAT (Pre-SAT)

- October testing for juniors
- Also offered to Sophomores in lieu of PLAN Testing
- Similar to SAT
- For Juniors Only - Qualifying test for National Merit Scholarship Program
- No Registration - \$20.00 fee assessed on fee bill
- Students receive personalized feedback on their test performance
- Score reports and actual test books sent home after winter break
- Scores CANNOT be used for college admissions
- **Accommodations:** Students with an IEP or 504 Plan need approval to test with accommodations. Parent consent forms are sent to parents in the spring of sophomore year. Application is made by test coordinator with College Board. Students are notified by College Board of their approved accommodations, and assigned a Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) number for future registration.

Practice ACT

- Administered in January
- A retired ACT now used for practice
- Students register on New Trier RevTrak - \$20.00 fee assessed
- Students receive personalized feedback on their test performance
- Score report and actual test book sent home
- Score CANNOT be used for college admission

SAT

- Administered throughout the year – scheduled by College Board
- SAT Reasoning: three areas tested: critical reading, math, and writing
- SAT Subject Tests: one-hour tests in a specific subject area. SAT Subject Tests are required by more selective colleges and the California state system
- Students register with College Board by paper or online.
- Scores can be used for college admission
- **Accommodations**: Students with disabilities need approval from College Board to test with accommodations. Please contact the Testing Coordinator, Peg Stevens, before registering for any testing.
- **Website**: www.collegeboard.com/student

ACT

- Administered throughout the year – scheduled by ACT
- ACT is an achievement test consisting of four subject tests: English, mathematics, reading, and science. Students can register for ACT No Writing or ACT Plus Writing.
- For all ACT exams, other than district/state ACT, students register with ACT online.
- Scores can be used for college admission.
- **Accommodations**: Students with disabilities need approval from ACT to test with accommodations. Students may **not** register online for accommodations. **Please contact the Testing Coordinator, Peg Stevens, before registering for any testing.**
- **Website**: www.actstudent.org .

ACT District Test:

- ACT Plus Writing - One day assessment exam for juniors; no registration required.
 - Scores can be used for college admission
- **Accommodations**: Parent consent forms are sent to parents in November of junior year. Application is made by Test Coordinator with ACT. Decisions are mailed to students in February before the April test.
- Official score reports are sent to students' homes by ACT. Students who take the test with accommodations do not receive their score reports for a week to ten days after standard scores are released.

Advanced Placement

- May be used for college credit
- Registration at New Trier in January; fee paid at time of registration
- College Board fee: \$91.00 per test
- **Accommodations**: Students who need accommodations must have prior approval from College Board by January. Please call Peg Stevens to make sure accommodations are in place.
- **Website**: www.collegeboard.com/student