THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA
OFFICE OF ASSESSMENT : Suite 214
440 North Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA, 19130

Keystone/PSSA Test Features and Accommodations, 2020-2021

- There are certain options available to *all* the students during testing such as the use of extended time and read aloud of all the items in math, science, Algebra 1, and Biology, and certain types of items in the ELA assessment, etc.
- Options available to ***all*** students are called "test features".
- The options available to Sp. Ed., EL, and 504 Plan students that are ***needed*** to allow them to participate in the assessment/s are called "accommodations". Therefore, accommodations are practices that provide equitable access to test items for these students.
- Accommodations are divided into 4 categories: Presentation, Response, Setting, and Timing.
- All accommodations that are available for the Keystone Examinations are also available for the PSSA.
- **It is critical to note that although some accommodations may be appropriate for instructional use, they may not be appropriate for use on a standardized assessment.**
- Accommodations must match the students' needs; students must be willing to use them; and students must be involved in their selection (See "Supplemental Resources" in the Accommodations Guidelines for PSSA and Keystone Exams_2021*****).
- A best practice in choosing accommodations for testing is using the accommodations routinely with the student prior to testing and documenting successful use. It is not a good practice to provide an accommodation in an assessment situation that the student does not use on a regular basis.

Accommodations available to ELs ONLY

Three separate *voluntary* accommodations are allowed specifically for ELs:

- 1) Word-to-word translation dictionaries, without definitions, pictures, or internet connection ---- allowed in Algebra 1 and Biology Keystone Examinations and Mathematics and Science PSSAs ONLY
  (Available to ALL ELs irrespective of the number of years in the country)

- 2) Qualified interpreters/sight translators****** ---- allowed in Algebra 1 and Biology Keystone Examinations, Mathematics and Science PSSAs, and Text Dependent Analysis (TDA) prompts of the ELA PSSA
  (Available ONLY for ELs in U. S. schools for less than 3 years)

- 3) Spanish/English test and answer booklets ---- allowed in Algebra 1 and Biology Keystone Examinations and Mathematics and Science PSSAs
  (Available ONLY for ELs in U. S. schools for less than 3 years)

NOTE: The aforementioned ELs-specific accommodations are NOT available for monitoring nor exited students.

*For more information on Test Features and Accommodations, use the following link and look in the Accommodations section:

https://www.education.pa.gov/K-12/Assessment%20and%20Accountability/PSSA/Pages/TestingInformation.aspx

** For the roles of interpreters and sight translators, go to the above link, and then click on 2021 Accommodations Guidelines for ELs. Note that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, interpreters/sight translators may not be available for the 2020-2021 PSSA and Keystone Exams.