

Accommodations and Modifications

Sometimes ‘accommodations’ and ‘modifications’ are used interchangeably, but they are different.

- **Accommodations** change how a student learns or presents the material.
- **Modifications** change what a student is taught or expected to learn.

Review the differences in accommodations and modifications as applied to instruction and assessment.

	Accommodations	Modifications
Instruction	<p>Accommodations help students learn the same material and meet the same expectations as their peers. For example, a student may listen to an audio recording of text.</p> <p>There are different types of accommodations, including presentation (an audio recording of a text) and setting (where a student sits).</p>	<p>Students who are behind their peers may need changes, or modifications, to the curriculum. For example, a student could be assigned shorter or less complex reading assignments.</p> <p>Students who receive modifications have their learning target moved.</p>
Assessment	<p>Testing and instructions accommodations can be different. For example, a spell-checker might help a student with writing difficulties take notes during class, but not during a weekly spelling test.</p> <p>However, this student might benefit from having extra time to complete the spelling test or typing if the physical act of writing is difficult.</p>	<p>Modifications in testing often require a student to cover less material or less complex material. For example, if the class was given 20 words to study, the student with modifications might study 10 of them.</p> <p>Alternatively, the student might have a completely different list of words. With the modification, what or how much the student is tested is different.</p>