

Questions from the RICAS Accommodations Webinar (1.11.2018)

Q: For Designated Accessibility Features – do we need to notify or request RIDE approval for any of these features? We specifically want to know if we can place some students in small groups or individually for test administration. These students do not have a disability or a 504 Plan, however the principal feels that they would benefit from taking the test in a small group setting.

A: No, you do not need to ask RIDE for permission. You have complete discretion on how you organize testing spaces for all students, not just students with disabilities.

Text-to-Speech Questions:

Q: Will non-IEP and non-ELLs have access to text to speech on the math test?

A: Not unless they are a student with a disability. The read-aloud accessibility feature we had with PARCC is not available for RICAS. There is a different accessibility feature for reading only one or two words for students during the mathematics test that is available for RICAS.

Q: Can EL Students use text-to-speech in the math test without having an IEP or 504 Plan?

A: Yes.

Q: Just for clarification, ELs can receive text-to-speech for math, but not for ELA, correct?

A: Yes, that is correct. However, if the student is also a student with a disability and meets the additional criteria for Read Aloud for ELA, they can have the form of read aloud (text-to-speech or human read-aloud, etc.) that is most helpful for them.

Q: Occasional words read aloud- is this a universal accommodation?

A: Yes, this is a universal accessibility feature.

Q: I thought you said earlier in presentation that TTS was available to all students when you were discussing the low numbers of students that had access.

A: That data was from the PARCC assessments, when it was allowed. RICAS does not allow read-alouds for the math test as an accessibility feature.

Read-Aloud Questions:

Q: On PARCC, text to speech/human reader for math was allowed for students who would normally use this accommodation in a classroom. Can any student who normally has this accommodation in his/her classroom be able to receive this accommodation on RICAS?

A: Only students with disabilities or 504 Plans with this accommodation listed in their IEP or 504 Plan can use this accommodation.

Graphic Organizer and Math Reference Sheets Questions:

Q: If a student has a specific accommodation for graphic organizers in 504/IEP, is that sufficient for using A9 accommodation or must it say A9 in plan?

A: It can say “graphic organizers for statewide assessment”.

Q: The graphic organizers to be used can only be the ones given out by RIDE for RICAS correct?

A: Not really. You can use those but if there is a graphic organizer that a student is very comfortable with, they can use it as long as there are NO words on the graphic organizer.

Q: In terms of the limit of 2 graphic organizers or reference sheets, is that a limit of 2 for all sections of the test in total or 2 per section? For example, can a student use 2 graphic organizers for 1 writing task and use 2 reference sheets for 1 math section?

A: A student can use one or two graphic organizers for the ELA test. The same student can use one or two supplemental reference sheets for math.

Technology Questions:

Q: Is there a list of compatible technology that will work with TestNav on the RIDE website?

A: Yes, it is at www.ride.ri.gov/RICAS and click on the *Accommodations for Students with Disabilities and English Learners* tab.

PAN Questions:

Q: When will the RICAS Portal be open for us to log in on PearsonAccessNext?

A: Pearson Access Next (PAN) will open January 22, 2018. RIDE will create accounts for district test coordinators and districts will create accounts for school test coordinators.

EL Student Participation Questions:

Q: When you started the EL Student portion you mentioned that first year ELs may take a paper test for math. How is the first year calculated?

A: Any EL student in the country less than one year would be a student who enrolled in U.S. schools on or after April 1, 2017.

Q: Last year a colleague of mine was granted a PARCC ELA exemption for a student who had been in the country for less than a year. Is this something being offered for RICAS? If so, how would we apply and what are the specific requirements?

A: Yes, that is the exemption for EL students in US for less than one year – they are exempt from ELA but not from the math or science tests. You don't need to apply for it, we verify that information using the LEP Census data and apply that exemption at the end of testing.

Q: Are all other EL accommodations available to all registered ELs regardless of how many years they've been an EL?

A: You should check the Accommodations Manual for a complete list of all accommodations available to English Learners.

Opt-out Questions:

Q: Can parent opt students out of testing?

A: RIDE does not have a state policy for opting out of testing. Any policy decisions about opting out are made at the district level. RIDE expects that all students will participate in the tests for their grade level and students who do not will be considered non-participants for accountability purposes.

Scribe Questions:

Q: It looks like students with IEP/504 or EL students cannot have a scribe for ELA. It would only be a special accommodation for only a small population. Is that correct?

A: Yes.

Q: Can an Arabic student use a technology device to translate in the Math Test as Compatible Assistive Technology/Unique Technology?

A: No.

Stop Testing Policy Questions:

Q: When referring to the Stop Testing Policy, what % of the test needs to be completed so that the test can be counted as participating?

A: This information is not available yet.