

The Assist

Helping Students Access and Make Progress in the General Curriculum

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Glossary

ACT-approved Accommodations: Assessment accommodations that result in ACT scores that are fully reportable to colleges, scholarship programs, and other entities in addition to being used for Michigan Merit Examination purposes. Only students with professionally diagnosed and documented disabilities who receive accommodations in school should apply for ACT-approved accommodations.

Alignment: The degree to which expectations and assessments are in agreement and serve in conjunction with one another to guide an education system toward students learning what they are expected to know and do. (*Analysis of STATE F Language Arts Standards and Assessments Grades 5, 8, and 11, 2001.*)

Assessment Item: A statement, question, exercise, or task in an assessment for which the test taker is to select or construct a response or perform a task. (*Standards for Educational & Psychological Testing, 1999.*)

Assessment Plan: Much like a builder's blueprint, an assessment plan guides how an assessment is built or developed. It includes detailed information on (1) the assumptions underlying the assessment; (2) the populations and subject areas assessed; (3) the number of assessment items and their formats; (4) prototype items to guide item writers; and (5) other information clarifying how and why the assessment should be developed.

Peer Review: A process used by the U.S. Education Department whereby specially trained education personnel review and provide feedback on programs and products developed by other states. For example, the process has been used recently to review states' assessment systems and accountability workbooks.

Standard Assessment Accommodation: The goal of an assessment accommodation is to minimize the impact of a student's disability on his/her performance on an assessment. The assessment accommodation is considered "standard" if it does not change what a specific assessment is measuring. The score received by a student using a standard assessment accommodation will count when calculating No Child Left Behind participation rates. A "nonstandard" assessment accommodation—which *does* change what a specific assessment is measuring—results in an invalid score.



State-allowed Accommodations: Assessment accommodations that result in ACT scores for Michigan Merit Examination purposes only. English language learners who do not have a disability but who receive accommodations in school should request state-allowed accommodations.