

**Guidelines for ISTEP+/GQE/ECAs Accommodations**

* Only those accommodations allowed by Indiana rules, will be given to any special education students.
* Only those accommodations that are used by the student routinely throughout the school year may be chosen as test accommodations.
* There can be absolutely no variation from the rules stated.

**Reading accommodations guidelines**

Any student who routinely has tests read during the school year should also have all the parts permitted to be read, read to them for the Indiana Statewide Testing for Educational Progress (ISTEP+), Graduation Qualifying Exam (GQE), and End-of-Course Assessments (ECAs).

Supplying an unknown word upon student’s request does not constitute having the test read to the student. Students who are very low readers often do not know if they are reading correctly so having the student make this decision is unreliable.

This reading accommodation only applies to sections of the GQE, ISTEP+, and ECAs that qualify for this accommodation. In sections with the “do not read” icon, no part of the test (passages, questions, answers, or isolated words) may be read to the students. The “do not read” icon is an open book inside a circle with a slash through it, as per the examiners manual.

**Written accommodations guidelines**

The state policy, which forbids the use of word walls for general education students, will also be adhered to for special education students. The use of word walls may not be written into a student’s individualized education plan (IEP).

For students who are using a non standard response such as the use of an adaptive keyboard for ISTEP+, GQE and ECAs, the procedures for computer generated response directions must be followed.

**Scribe guidelines**

* Students with an orthopedic or sensory disabilities who:
	+ Are able to write, will write.
	+ Are able to use a keyboard and use a keyboard routinely for assignments and tests are allowed to use a keyboard for ISTEP+.
	+ Are unable to use a keyboard after sufficient training has been provided will be allowed to scribe.
	+ Are unable to use a keyboard due to obvious physical disabilities will be allowed a scribe.
* Other students having a disability which impairs the physical act of writing may be allowed keyboard accommodations.

**General comments**

If questions arise about a student’s eligibility for the scribe accommodation, contact should be made with a special education administrator prior to writing it into a student’s IEP.

The purpose of a test accommodation is to “level the playing field” for special education students, not to provide an advantage on the test.

Any accommodation that is given to a student on ISTEP+, GQE, ECAs or other standardized testing must be one that the student uses in testing situations routinely in school.