

# Choosing Appropriate Accommodations - Dos and Don'ts

## Special Education Bureau

October 2004

Source: Council of Chief State School Officers- ASES (2004)

<b>DO</b> make accommodation decisions based individualized need		<b>DON'T</b> make accommodations decisions based on whatever is "easiest" to do (e.g., preferential seating)
<b>DO</b> make sure to document instructional and assessment accommodations on the IEP		<b>DON'T</b> use and accommodation that has not been documented on an IEP
<b>DO</b> be familiar with the types of accommodations that can be used as both instructional and assessment accommodations		<b>DON'T</b> assume that all <i>instructional</i> accommodations can be used for assessment
<b>DO</b> be specific about the "Where, When, Who, and How" accommodations will be provided		<b>DON'T</b> just indicate that an accommodation(s) will be provided "as appropriate" or "as necessary"
<b>DO</b> refer to state-approved accommodations and understand implications of selections		<b>DON'T</b> check every accommodation possible on a checklist just to be "safe"
<b>DO</b> evaluate whether instruction and assessment accommodations are used by the student		<b>DON'T</b> assume that the same accommodations should remain appropriate year after year
<b>DO</b> get input about accommodations from general educator, parents, and students, and use to make decisions at IEP meetings		<b>DON'T</b> make decisions about instructional and assessment accommodations alone
<b>DO</b> provide accommodations for assessments that are routinely used for classroom instruction		<b>DON'T</b> provide an assessment accommodation for the first time on the day of the test
<b>DO</b> select accommodations based on specific individual needs		<b>DON'T</b> assume that certain accommodations, such as extra time, are appropriate for every student
<b>DO</b> mediate the effect of the disability to access instruction and demonstrate learning		<b>DON'T</b> select accommodations that are unrelated to documented student learning needs, or are intended to give students an unfair advantage