

**Explanation of Testing Accommodations for Students with Disabilities -
Assistive Technology Accommodations
(Effective beginning in Fall 2017)**

According to the *Regulations Governing Special Education Programs for Children with Disabilities in Virginia*, “ ‘assistive technology device’ means any item, piece of equipment, or product system, whether acquired commercially off the shelf, modified, or customized, that is used to increase, maintain, or improve the functional capabilities of a child with a disability.”

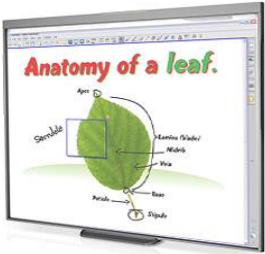
Accommodations, including assistive technology devices, provided to students with disabilities as part of the instructional and assessment process should allow equal opportunity to access the assessments in the Virginia Assessment Program. Accommodations based solely on the potential to enhance performance beyond providing equal access are not allowed.

Assistive technology accommodations used on statewide assessments must be documented in the student’s Individualized Education Program (IEP) or 504 Plan and used in daily instruction. Using new or unfamiliar accommodations on a state assessment is inappropriate.

The IEP Team or 504 Committee, Division Director of Testing (DDOT), and Text Examiner must consult Appendix B, *Special Testing Accommodations: Resources and General Guidance*, of the current Standards of Learning (SOL) Test Implementation Manual for specific information about required conditions for each accommodation category. If a student requires an accommodation that is beyond those detailed in this document or the SOL Test Implementation Manual to access the SOL assessments, the Division Director of Testing or his/her designee should submit the Special Assessment Accommodation Request form available on the Virginia Department of Education website at www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/participation/index.shtml.


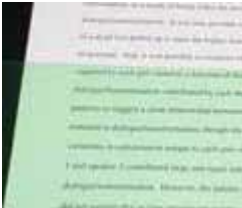
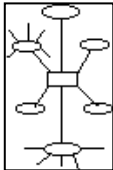
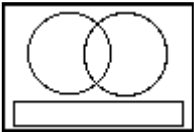


Assistive Technology Accommodations Allowed for SOL Testing

(See Appendix B of the current SOL Test Implementation Manual for Required Conditions)

Special Test Accommodations Code	Examples of Assistive Technology that may Provide Access to SOL Assessments for Students with Disabilities	Description	SOL Test Format Available
4 Visual aids	Interactive/Electronic whiteboard; Data projector 	A student with a visual impairment may use an interactive/electronic whiteboard or data projector to project the test onto a large surface (projection screen, dry erase board, or wall) for magnification purposes only.	Paper Online

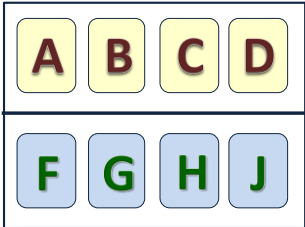

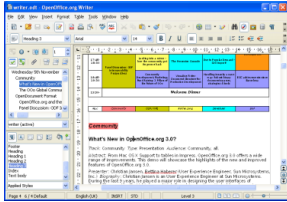

Assistive Technology Accommodations Allowed for SOL Testing

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Special Test Accommodations Code	Examples of Assistive Technology that may Provide Access to SOL Assessments for Students with Disabilities	Description	SOL Test Format Available
4 Visual aids	CCTV (closed circuit television) Electronic magnification 	A student with a visual impairment may use a CCTV or electronic magnifier to enlarge a paper test form.	Paper
4 Visual aids	Color overlay Tinted screen Screen Magnifier 	A student with a visual impairment or processing disability may use only one blank color overlay, tinted screen or screen magnifier.	Paper Online
4 Visual aids	Template software Electronic or printed graphic organizer  	A student with a disability may use only blank templates or blank graphic organizers.	Paper Online
5 Amplification equipment	Auditory Trainer Whisper phone  	A student with a disability who requires amplification may use an auditory trainer or whisper phone.	Paper Online

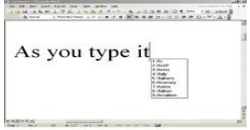



Assistive Technology Accommodations Allowed for SOL Testing

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Special Test Accommodations Code	Examples of Assistive Technology that may Provide Access to SOL Assessments for Students with Disabilities	Description	SOL Test Format Available
13 Communication board, choice cards	Communication board or choice cards 	A student with a disability who is not able to record an answer on an online or paper test or provide an auditory response to a scribe may use a communication board or choice cards to indicate his or her response.	Paper Online
21 Response Devices	Word processor, Word processor with speech-to-text  	A student with a visual impairment who does not use braille, as well as students who have an orthopedic impairment, a specific learning disability, or other disability that interferes with the composing process or prevents them from composing their response within the online test, may use a word processor or word processor with speech-to-text capabilities to complete the short-paper component of the SOL Writing test.	Paper Online (Short-Paper Component of <i>Writing Test</i> Only)
21 Response Devices	Braille writer or braille 	Blind and vision-impaired students may use a braille writer or braille to complete the short-paper component of the SOL Writing test or to record responses to multiple-choice SOL test questions.	Braille Paper

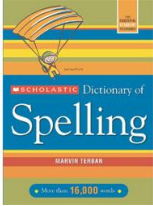


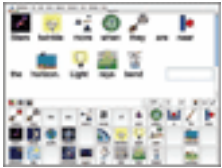
Assistive Technology Accommodations Allowed for SOL Testing

(See Appendix B of the current SOL Test Implementation Manual for Required Conditions)

Special Test Accommodations Code	Examples of Assistive Technology that may Provide Access to SOL Assessments for Students with Disabilities	Description	SOL Test Format Available
21 Response Devices	Word prediction software 	A student with a specific learning disability or other disability which interferes with the composing process may use word prediction software which provides a selection of single words generated only from the student’s single or multiple keystrokes.	Paper Online (Short-Paper Component of <i>Writing Test Only</i>)
22 Augmentative communication device	Augmentative communication device 	A student with a disability who is not able to record an answer directly on a paper or online test or provide an auditory response to a scribe may use an augmentative communication device to indicate his or her response.	Paper Online
22 Augmentative communication device	Eye Gaze device and software 	A student with a disability who is not able to record an answer directly on a paper or online test or provide an auditory response to a scribe, may use an eye gaze device or software to access a keyboard by blinking or by gazing at a letter to indicate his or her response.	Paper Online
23 Spelling aids	Spell checker, spelling dictionary, or spelling corrector 	A student with a specific learning disability or other disability that interferes with the composing process may use an approved spelling aid including a spell checker, a spelling corrector, a commercial, teacher- or student-made dictionary, or word processing software with a spell checker.	Paper Online (Short-paper component of <i>Writing test only</i>)

Assistive Technology Accommodations Not Allowed for SOL Testing

The following table provides examples of assistive technology accommodations that have the potential to enhance student performance beyond providing equal access to SOL assessments or violate test security. These accommodations are **not** allowed during SOL assessments.

Accommodation <u>Not</u> Allowed	Example or Explanation
<p>Spelling dictionary that provides hints, prompts, or clues</p> 	
<p>Spell checker with thesaurus</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This device contains a built in thesaurus which cannot be disabled.
<p>Magnification software with online tests</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Magnification software cannot be used with online SOL tests. The TestNav application used for online SOL test administration includes magnification capability and is the only magnification option available to students completing an online SOL test. The TestNav application cannot be used concurrently with other software or applications on the device as it is not possible to ensure compatibility or proper test security.
<p>Picture writing software</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The use of this type of software requires that the teacher create word banks or lists from which the student selects while composing sentences and paragraphs. • The level of teacher assistance required is extensive; therefore, it is not appropriate for SOL assessments as it violates test security. • The device running the software may provide access to the Internet.

Assistive Technology Accommodations Not Allowed for SOL Testing

Accommodation <u>Not</u> Allowed	Example or Explanation
<p>Use of software or applications on a device concurrently running TestNav for online SOL test administration.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The TestNav application cannot be used concurrently with other software or applications on the device as it is not possible to ensure compatibility or proper test security.
<p>Use of any Internet-capable device during testing to access software or applications other than TestNav.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using an Internet-capable device to access software or applications while completing an online or paper SOL test is a violation of test security. • Assistive technology accommodations detailed in the Test Implementation Manual may not be used on an Internet-capable device without prior VDOE approval. • Requests to use software or applications during testing on an Internet-capable device must be made via the Special Assessment Accommodation Request process.