NEBRASKA STATE ACCOUNTABILITY (NeSA) APPROVED ACCOMMODATIONS
Digital copies available at http://www.education.ne.gov/assessment/

The purpose of this document is to provide a quick reference for school districts about the following:

1) ***Test Administration Practices*** --- Changes or adjustments in test administration that are appropriate for **all** students.
2) ***Test Accommodations*** ---
   - ***For students with IEPs or 504 plans:*** Adjustments or adaptations in the test or the testing process that do not change the test expectation, the grade level, or the construct or content being measured. **Accommodations should only be used if appropriate for the student and used during instruction throughout the year.**
   - ***For English language learners:*** Changes to testing procedures, testing materials, or the testing situation in order to allow the student meaningful participation in an assessment. **Some accommodations, such as native language assessment, may be appropriate without prior use during instruction.**
   - A student who has an IEP and is identified as an English language learner is allowed accommodations as appropriate for both designations.
3) ***Test Modifications*** --- Adjustments or changes in the test or the testing process that change the test expectation, the grade level, or the construct or content being measured. **Modifications are not appropriate for state testing.**

	Test Administration Practices **(appropriate for all students)**
I.	***Test Administration Practices – includes Nebraska State Accountability (NeSA) Reading, Writing, Mathematics, and Science***
1.	Test administrator reads directions aloud for student and rereads as needed.
2.	Test administrator provides an audio recording of directions.
3.	Test administrator OR student highlights important information in test directions.
4.	Test administrator reads, simplifies, explains, or clarifies directions.
5.	Test administrator provides distraction-free space or alternate, supervised location for student (e.g., study carrel, front of room, alternate room).
6.	Test administrator provides commercial dictionary and thesaurus for NeSA-W test.
7.	Test administrator provides blank scratch paper or graph paper.
8.	Test administrator directs/redirects student focus on test as needed.
9.	Student rereads and/or restates directions in his/her own words.
10.	Student uses page marker (e.g., bookmark or straight edge) to maintain place.
11.	Student marks test booklet (e.g., highlight, annotate, strike-through. (Use no highlighters on RMS paper/pencil answer sheets or on NeSA-W essay response pages in booklet.)
12.	Student reads aloud to self in quiet manner.
13.	Student takes test at home or in care facility (e.g., hospital) with district supervision.
14.	These tools are available for all students on the DRC INSIGHT online system or may be made available to students taking a paper/pencil test as appropriate. • Pointer – an arrow to select or de-select answers to multiple-choice questions • Flag – a tool to mark an item for review later • Magnifier – a tool to enlarge the screen image by 1.5 or 2.0 orders of magnitude • Pause/Resume – a button to pause and begin again • Cross-Off – a red X to cross out answer options • Highlighter – a tool to highlight parts of a passage or item • Line Guide – a blue line to keep one's place when reading • Sticky Note – adds notes that can be used for future reference anywhere on the screen • Color Chooser – a tool to change the color of the background screen, including behind passages, items, directions, graphics, and formulas

Test Accommodations for Students with IEP or 504 Plan

(includes NeSA Reading, Writing, Mathematics, and Science)

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

A. Each student's IEP or 504 team should determine the NeSA testing mode (online or paper/pencil) most appropriate for the child. This decision should be conveyed to the District Assessment Contact (DAC) for communication through eDirect.
B. Participation in the Alternate Assessment is determined by the IEP team and based on "Decision-Making Guidelines" and "Alternate Assessment Criteria/Checklist"
C. All accommodations must be specified in the student's IEP.
D. Best practice is to communicate with students concerning testing mode decisions.

II.	***Content Presentation***
15.	Test administrator turns pages for student.
16.	Audio presentation of directions, content, and test items to student (for NeSA-R test, only directions and test items may be read). • Test administrator pronounces individual words in directions or test items upon student request. • Test administrator reads test aloud verbatim and rereads as needed. • Test materials are provided on audiotapes, IPods, CDs, etc. (to be used in conjunction with the paper/pencil test). • Text-to-Speech is available for online NeSA-R,M,S (for NeSA-R test, only directions and test items may be read), provided by INSIGHT software.
17.	Student uses specialized presentation of test (e.g., colored paper, visual magnification device, large print, tactile graphics, Braille).
18.	Student uses audio amplification device (e.g., audio trainer, hearing aids, classroom amplification).
19.	Student uses acoustical voice feedback device (e.g., WhisperPhone).
20.	Interpreter signs directions, content, and test items to student (for NeSA-R test, only directions and test items may be signed).
21.	Test administrator increases white space on the page (e.g., less print on a page, increased space between items, use of a template to reduce visible print).
22.	Test administrator provides manipulatives to support student understanding of items/response options.
III.	***Response***
23.	Student responds directly in the NeSA R,M,S test booklet or with a Braille Production Device (e.g. Brailler, Electronic Braillewriter, Electronic Notetaker). Test administrator transfers student responses to the answer sheet.
24.	Student uses primary mode of communication (e.g., communication device, pointing). Test administrator records student answers.
25.	Student uses Braille Production Device, or specialized writing materials/technology to respond to the NeSA-W test prompt. The test administrator transcribes response to the test booklet (Grade 4) or on-line system (Grades 8 and 11). The student response is to be transcribed exactly as it is written—i.e. with spelling, punctuation, and spacing replicated. The original student essay will be sent to DRC with returned testing materials. For grades 8 and 11 districts should order a paper/pencil test for each student to access the prompt during test administration, if needed.
26.	Student responds orally to test items or writing prompt OR uses sign language to indicate responses. • Test administrator records student responses. For NeSA-W test, student must indicate the placement of punctuation, capital letters, indentations, etc. • Student uses speech-to-text conversion or voice recognition technology.
27.	Student uses material/devices to problem solve or organize thoughts/responses. • Computation supports (e.g., abacus, calculator, addition/multiplication chart, number line) on NeSA-M • Spelling/word prediction device on NeSA-W • Visual organizer (e.g., graphic organizer, semantic mapping software) on NeSA-W. Organizers cannot contain specific words or topics i.e. topic sentences or sentence starters. • Commercial dictionary--NeSA-M, NeSA-S only. No commercial dictionary allowed on NeSA-R
IV.	***Timing/Scheduling/Setting***
28.	Test administrator provides extra time for the 4th grade NeSA-W test. NeSA-W 8 and 11 are untimed but if testing session will exceed one day, a paper/pencil test will be needed.
29.	Test administrator provides a flexible testing schedule for NeSA R,M,S. If either of the two testing sessions will exceed one day, paper/pencil test will be needed.
30.	Test administrator provides multiple and frequent individual breaks during testing time.
31.	Test administrator changes testing location to increase physical access or use of special equipment (e.g., appropriate lighting or specialized desk).

Test Accommodations for English Language Learners

(includes NeSA Reading, Writing, Mathematics, and Science)

NDE is providing the following Spanish translations in 2014-2015:

- **NeSA-Reading – Spanish-translated directions and items (not passages) available in both paper/pencil and online.**
- **NeSA-M and S – Spanish-translated assessment available in both paper/pencil and online.**
- **NeSA-W – Spanish-translated prompt available in paper/pencil.**
- **The text-to-speech online test function is available only in English for online NeSA-R (not passages) and NeSA-M,S provided by INSIGHT software.**
- **Districts MUST use NDE provided translations for Spanish.**

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

A. Districts may exempt a recently arrived limited English proficient student from the NeSA-R assessment for 12 months or one reporting period. A district must administer the state mathematics, science, and writing tests to recently arrived limited English proficient students.
B. For NeSA, testing in native language is allowable for up to three years (only for students indicated as Limited English Proficient on NSSRS).
C. Former ELL (redesignated) students are allowed the use of accommodations on state assessments during the two-year monitoring period. They are not, however, allowed native language assessments (translated tests).
D. All NeSA-W Spanish essays are state scored.
E. For NeSA-W responses in languages other than English or Spanish, answer documents should be returned to the writing vendor, DRC. The student will be counted as a participant.
F. Paper/pencil and on-line modes cannot be used in combination except for students needing Spanish translation of prompt on NeSA-W but who are taking the test in the online system.
G. For additional clarification see *Guide for Including and Accommodating English Language Learners in Nebraska State Accountability*

V.	***Direct Linguistic Support with Test Directions***
32.	Test administrator reads directions aloud in English or native language and rereads as needed. (Paper/pencil or on-line) Text-to-speech available in English provided by INSIGHT software.
33.	Test administrator provides written directions in native language.
34.	Test administrator provides audio recording of directions in English or native language.
35.	Test administrator simplifies, explains, or clarifies directions in English or native language.
VI.	***Direct Linguistic Support with Content and Test Items***
36.	Test administrator reads content and test items verbatim to student in English and rereads as needed (for NeSA-R test, only test items may be read). Text-to-Speech is available for online NeSA-R,M,S (for NeSA-R test, only directions and test items may be read), provided by INSIGHT software in English only.
37.	Test administrator provides a translator to orally translate content and test items verbatim in native language and read/reread as needed. For NeSA-R test, this applies only to test items.
38.	Test administrator provides translated audio recording (e.g., audiotape/CD/IPod) of content and test items in English or native language to be used in conjunction with paper/pencil test. For NeSA-R test, this applies only to test items.
39.	Test administrator provides a translator to translate content and test items into written native language. For NeSA-R test, this applies only to test items.
40.	Test administrator provides district-developed bilingual word list, allowed on NeSA-M and NeSA-S only.
41.	Test administrator provides word-to-word bilingual dictionary allowed on NeSA-M, NeSA-S, and NeSA-W only.
42.	Test administrator provides commercial dictionary and thesaurus (English or bilingual) for NeSA-W test only.
43.	Student responds orally in his/her native language. A translator records student responses into online system or regular answer sheet in English, allowed on NeSA, Reading, Math, Science only.
44.	Student responds to NeSA-W prompt in native language. Writing prompts are provided in Spanish for grades 4, 8, and 11 in paper/pencil.
VII.	***Indirect Linguistic Support***
45.	Test administrator provides extra time for the 4th grade NeSA-W test. NeSA-W 8 and 11 are untimed but if the testing session will exceed one day, a paper/pencil test will be needed.
46.	Test administrator provides a flexible testing schedule for NeSA R,M,S. If either of the two testing sessions will exceed one day, paper/pencil test will be needed.
47.	Test administrator provides multiple and frequent individual breaks within a session during testing time.