

# "Instructional Support Weekly"

Topic: Accommodations vs. Modifications

Accommodations offer a way for students to demonstrate what they have learned. Students take in information in a variety of ways and they must be able to communicate that knowledge. Accommodations are changes in HOW students access information and demonstrate learning. Accommodations are needed to facilitate student access to grade-level instruction and school-wide assessments. They set up "equity" so all students can play on a level playing field.

- An "adapted" test is one form of an accommodation. The student who receives an adapted test is responsible for the same amount of material as all other students in the classroom. The format of the test may look different and include a word bank or less multiple choice options, but it will have the same number of questions and content assessed.

Modifications refer to a change in WHAT the students are expected to learn. The same academic content may not be mastered by students with disabilities as other students in the same classroom. The changes are made so students have the opportunity to participate actively and productively along with other students in classroom learning experiences. Modifications might include changes in content instructional level and/or performance criteria.

Have a great week!

From the Instructional Support Team at STM