

CASAS National Webinar

February 16, 2022

CASAS Testing Accommodations and CASAS eTests Accessibility Features

Title Slide- This short presentation will cover CASAS testing accommodations and resources to support these accommodations.

Slide 2- Testing accommodations provide learners who have disabilities with an opportunity to demonstrate their skills and abilities without interference caused by the disability itself.

This is a list of common CASAS testing accommodations.

Extra test time. Documentation often states double or time and a half.

Additional Breaks

A reader

A scribe for answers

Large Print test booklets and answer sheets or magnification features in CASAS eTest online

Talking calculator for math

And

Use of a screen reader. A screen reader gives access to assessment content through an audio component. It is external assistive technology that is downloaded onto a testing computer. This technology assists a visually impaired/blind test taker in navigating the test independently.

Slide 3- If you have a student who may need a testing accommodation, test administrators will want to contact the Disabilities Support Services office at your agency, district, or organization. They can help test administrators understand local procedures for standardized testing accommodations.

Slide 4- Next, test administrators will acquire appropriate documentation that supports the requested accommodation. It's important to note any language in documentation that differentiates instructional accommodations versus standardized testing accommodations.

Slide 5 – CASAS has resources online to help agency test administrators provide accommodations. A good place to start is the Testing Accommodations Frequently Asked Questions on the CASAS website. Agency staff can get answers to common questions such as:

- How do I provide extended time in CASAS eTests?
- How do I provide breaks in CASAS eTests?
- What materials does CASAS have for test takers with visual impairment/blindness?
- How can I order large print test booklets and answer sheets?

Slide 6 - The Testing Accommodations webpage looks like this. If you are new to accommodations, there is a Step by step guide available here. This page also includes CASAS guidelines on testing accommodations as well as other resources such as the FAQs, support materials for administering a CASAS test to a test taker with visual impairment/blindness, as well as other CASAS products available for learners with special needs.

Slide 7 – CASAS offers materials for test takers with visual impairment. There are supplemental materials for the Reading GOALS, Math GOALS and Life and Work Reading test forms. I will cover these materials in a bit more detail later in the presentation. CASAS also offers Large Print test booklets and answer sheets as well as the Braille Reading Assessment. More information is available on the CASAS website.

Slide 8- Specialized assessments for groups of learners with certain impairments are also available. These include the POWER series and the Adult Life Skills series, both of which are designed for adults with intellectual disabilities.

Slide 9 – CASAS eTests online offers features that improve accessibility. These include:

- Pre-set default text and toolbar size.
- Pre-set background color.
- Magnification for all text and displays.
- Volume control on listening tests.
- And keyboard shortcuts

Slide 10- A testing session in eTests can be modified to allow for extra time according to a test takers documentation. In CASAS eTests, test administrators can edit a session, or make a separate accommodations session that is available when this extra time is needed. Users will click on the Modalities Tab to edit.

Slide 11 – Then edit the settings to double time or time and a half. Then click OK and save. CASAS recommends setting up an Accommodations testing session with these pre-set extended times. Only stations assigned to these testing sessions will have the modified timing.

Slide 12 – for test takers with additional breaks needed, click on the pause icon from the Toolbar at the Testing Station; This automatically pauses the test and test timer and masks the screen for test security until the session is resumed.

Slide 13 –All test forms are available in Large Print. Large Print test booklets have a minimum font size of 18 point. Be sure to indicate “Large Print” on the order form.

Slide 14 – Supplemental testing materials for learners with visual impairment or blindness are available for Reading GOALS, Math GOALS and Life and Work Reading. Order these materials for those test takers who need a human reader/scribe as well as those test takers who need to use a screen reader.

Slide 15 – These materials include a supplement to the test administration manual, scripts for the test forms, a copy of test booklets for the Reader and a reusable tactile graphics booklet for the test taker. All test forms are compatible with screen reader software.

Slide 16- If students who have a documented disability such as legal blindness need to use a screen reader such as JAWS or NVDA, CASAS eTests forms are compatible for the GOALS series and Life and Work Reading. The following is a demo of a Reading GOALS Level B sample item with a screen reader. CASAS partners with the American Printing House for the Blind to ensure accessibility for visually impaired/blind test takers.

This sample shows a personal calendar on someone’s smart phone. You can see/hear how the alt text reads with this format. You can also watch how a test taker uses a few quick keys on the key board to navigate through the essential components of the testing environment: display, test question, answer options and finally advancing to the next test item/screen.

Slide 16- This concludes the presentation. If you have any questions about the information in this presentation or any other questions regarding CASAS testing accommodations, please send them to CASAS@casas.org.

To get to the Testing Accommodations webpage on the CASAS website, you can go here: www.casas.org.

To get to the Accommodations FAQs you can go here: <https://www.casas.org/training-and-support/testing-guidelines/Assessment-Accommodations>

I’ll put those links in the chat now if you want to have those for later. Thank you for attending!

