



## ACCOMMODATIONS VS. MODIFICATIONS

### ACCOMMODATIONS

**Definition:** Changes how a student learns the material without changing what is being taught.

**Goal:** Provide equal access to learning and participation

**Key Point:** Student is expected to meet the same grade-level standards.

**Examples:** -Extra time on tests or assignments - Preferential seating - Audio books or text-to-speech - Breaks during tasks/tests - Large print or braille materials - Calculator for math facts - Quiet testing environment

**Think:** "Same work, different way to access it."

**Why It Matters:** Accommodations keep the standard the same - student works toward the same academic goals as peers. Modifications change the standard - the student may work toward alternate or functional goals. Impact on Diploma: In some states, too many modifications may affect graduation track - ask how your child's program impacts diploma options.

**Quick Tip for Parents:** "Is this an accommodation or a modification? How will it affect my child's access to grade-level content and graduation requirements?"

### MODIFICATIONS

**Definition:** Changes what a student is expected to learn.

**Goal:** Adjust learning expectations to match abilities.

**Key Point:** Student is not expected to meet grade-level standards.

**Examples:** - Simplified assignments - Alternate projects instead of tests - Reading at a lower grade level - Fewer spelling words - Modified grading scale - Alternate math/reading curriculum

**Think:** "Different work, different expectations."