

# Supports & Accommodations

# Presenter

Jennifer Paul, Accessibility & EL Assessment Specialist

# Topics

- Review of M-STEP Supports and Accommodations framework
- Review of preparation for M-STEP Science and Social Studies

# Supports & Accommodations Framework



- All tools are categorized into 1 of 3 groups
- Definitions of these categories vary by assessment

## M-STEP Categories

### Universal Tools

Available to all students - use is primarily student driven

### Designated Supports

Available to students who have a specific need - use is primarily educator driven

### Accommodations

Available to students with disabilities whose need for that specific accommodation is documented in IEP/504 plan

# Frequent Areas of Confusion

- Students with IEPs can't use Universal Tools or Designated Supports. **False**
- Students with IEPs can use a Universal Tool or Designated Support if it's not identified in their IEP. **False**
- Only English Learners can use Designated Supports. **False**
- Students who receive extra classroom support for reading can use Designated Supports if appropriate for their needs. **True**

# Preparing for Testing

As you prepare for testing, create processes for the following:

- Review which tools students are using in the classroom
  - Have a meeting
  - Create a shared document to track tools needed for assessments
- Ensure there's a match between what is used in the classroom and what will be used on the state test
- Review the Supports & Accommodations Guidance Document
- Identify staff responsible for inputting Designated Supports or Accommodations into the online testing systems
- Identify staff who will serve as human readers, translators, or scribes  
They must review and use the appropriate guidelines in the Supports & Accommodations Guidance Document.

# Preparing for Testing

- Consider students' individual needs.
- Do not enable or provide a Designated Support or Accommodation to all students in a grade level, building, or district.
- Providing students with more than they need/know how to use effectively can negatively impact their scores
- Not providing students with what they need can negatively impact their scores

# Preparing for Testing

How do I start making decisions? Start with some big questions.

- Does the student have a disability impacting their vision?
- Does the student have a disability impacting their hearing?
- Does the student require an audio presentation of text?
- Is the student identified as an English Learner?
- Does the student need help maintaining concentration?



# Preparing for Testing

- Does the student have a disability impacting their vision?
  - [M-STEP Guide for Teachers of Students who are Visually Impaired](#)

# Preparing for Testing

- Does the student have a disability impacting their hearing?
  - [M-STEP Guide for Teachers of Students who are Deaf or Hard-of-Hearing](#)

# Preparing for Testing

- Does the student require an audio presentation of the text?
  - Review the Text-to-Speech and Read-Aloud Decision Guidance in the [Supports & Accommodations Guidance Document](#)

# Preparing for Testing

- Is the student identified as an English Learner?
  - [M-STEP Guide for Teachers of Students who are English Learners](#)

# Preparing for Testing

- Does the student need help maintaining concentration?
  - Masking (DS)
  - Additional Time (allowable administration option)
  - One-on-one or purposeful small group administration (UT)

# Preparing for Testing

## For In-Depth Student Review

- [Accessibility Supports in the Classroom](#)
- [Accessibility Supports in the Classroom Completed Sample](#)

## For Ensuring Students Get What They Need for Testing

- [Tracking Sheet for Supports and Accommodations](#)

# Text-to-Speech

There are two types of Text-to-Speech available for M-STEP - the availability of each differs by content area and grade.

1. Designated Support - Text-to-Speech
2. Accommodation - Text-to-Speech Passage

# Text-to-Speech

## 1. Designated Support - Text-to-Speech

- Available for ELA, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies
  - Reads questions and answer options for students
  - There are no reading passages on the Mathematics, Science, or Social Studies assessments

## 2. Accommodation - Text-to-Speech Passage

- Available for ELA grades 6 & 7 only



# New for M-STEP 2021 – for Science & Social Studies

- Continuous Magnification – holds magnification between screens
- TTS for Directions Only is available
- COVID Considerations
  - Use what the student is most comfortable with/has been using during instruction this year

# Questions

If you have questions about what is available or need help in determining which supports might be best for students, please send an e-mail to Jen Paul at [mde-oeaa@michigan.gov](mailto:mde-oeaa@michigan.gov).

Refer to the [Supports & Accommodations Guidance Document](#)