

## GRADES, REPORT CARDS, AND TRANSCRIPTS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

(Taken from CDE Website)

### **1. Should a student's grade reflect that accommodations have been made for that student to access the general education curriculum?**

No. A student's grade should not reflect that accommodations have been made. Accommodations provide students with disabilities an equal opportunity to participate in the general education curriculum.

An accommodation is a change in the course, standard, test preparation, location, timing, scheduling, expectation, student response, or other attributes that provides access for a student with a disability to participate in a course, standard or test, and it does not fundamentally alter or lower the standard or expectation of the course, standard or test.

The CDE [Standardized Testing and Reporting \(STAR\) Web page](#) provides information and examples of accommodations and modifications for administration of California Statewide Assessments.

### **2. May a student's grade reflect that modifications have been made for that student to access the general education curriculum?**

Yes. If modifications have been made to the curriculum of any course, it is important that the student's grade reflect the student's achievement in the modified curriculum, as long as modified grades are available to all students. However, any modifications to programming, instruction, and grading must be documented in the student's IEP and be directly related to the student's disability. To automatically give modified grades to all special education students would be discriminatory and potentially violate Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

A modification is a change in the course, standard, test preparation, location, timing, scheduling, expectation, student response, or other attribute that provides access for a student with a disability to participate in a course, standard or test, and it does fundamentally alter or lower the standard or expectation of the course, standard or test.

The CDE [Standardized Testing and Reporting \(STAR\) Web page](#) provides information and examples of accommodations and modifications for administration of California Statewide Assessments.

**3. May some type of symbol or code be used on a student's report card to indicate that the student has had a modified curriculum in the general education classroom?**

Yes. A symbol or code may be used on a student's report card to indicate that the student has had a modified curriculum in the general education classroom. However, this type of coding should not be used solely for students with disabilities. A policy should be developed that applies to all students.

**4. May pass/fail grades be used for students with disabilities in the general education classroom?**

Yes. A student with disabilities may be given a pass/fail grade as long as participation in this grading system is voluntary and is available to all students. In addition, the grading system must meet the student's special needs and must be documented in the IEP.

**5. May a student's transcript indicate that the student participated in a modified curriculum?**

Yes. The purpose of the transcript is to present an accurate picture of a student's coursework. If the curriculum content has been modified, the transcript may reflect that modification through some type of symbol or code that indicates that the student received modified grades or completed work at a lower grade level. The explanation of the symbol or code can not indicate that the student has a disability or that the student is in special education. Information regarding a disability may be indicated on the transcript if the student or the parent of the student gives written consent for the information to be released to a postsecondary institution or employer.