

Accommodations

Accommodations in the classroom are usually used to assist the different learners and students. Different learning styles, handicaps, disabled students and English language learners all need different teaching styles and an assortment of methods to learn. Accommodations refers to practices, procedures, and changes in equipment and areas of presentation, response, setting, and timing or scheduling that provide students with disabilities equal instructional and assessment access.

There are accommodations that allow different response methods such as to allow students to complete assignments, tests and activities in different ways. A student may be learning disabled and need extra time on every assignment. They may even need fewer problems on the assignment. It doesn't benefit the student if they are overwhelmed and frustrated to the point where helplessness sets in. They need to be accommodated for and given what is in their ability.

Another accommodation is setting accommodation. Setting accommodation is an actual change in the area where a test or assignment may be given. Suppose there is a student with ADHD in the classroom and they are easily distracted. They may need some quiet corner in the room to complete assignments or even take tests in the hall. It is important to never make this feel like punishment – but a way to learn in our best environment.

Modifications in the classroom are actual changes in the curriculum. Some students are very visual learners and need visuals to go along with every lesson. If they are not accommodated for – they will not learn to their full potential. For instance, an Autistic student

may be very bright. They are however, very visual learners. If a teacher is giving a lesson verbally – that student may be missing all of that information. They may need pictures, written outlines of lesson or actual objects. Modifications can even be given to students who struggle with tests, homework or any other assignments. As educators we want our students to succeed. For instance, if a student studies their spelling words, but continues to fail the test week after week, I may give that student a modification. That modification could be less words or possibly different words - depending on the student and abilities. There is no learning taking place if a student is taking a test out of their zone of proximity.