

**Additional Guidance:  
Delaware Student Testing Program (DSTP) Accommodations 117, 118, & 119  
During DSTP Reading Test, for the 2009-2010 School Year**

The purpose of this handout is to clarify which students may and may not receive accommodations 117, 118, and 119 during the DSTP **Reading** test in the 2009-2010 school year. The restrictions do not apply to the text-based writing prompt on the **Writing** test.

| Soc. Studies | Science | Math | Writing | Reading        | Old code | New Code | Description  | Conditions   |
|--------------|---------|------|---------|----------------|----------|----------|--|--|
|              |         |      |         | Non-aggregable | 46       | 117      | Reading aloud passages or texts for the reading test or text-based writing. Indicate with a ✓ ___ all allowable items <b>OR</b> ✓ ___ items requested by student. <b>See protocol for reading aloud the DSTP, Appendix H.</b>  | Accommodations 117, 118, & 119:<br>The use of these accommodations for the Reading DSTP shall be restricted to the following conditions:<br>1. (a.) The student has a specific disability that severely limits or prevents him or her from decoding text, or from comprehending decoded text, even after varied and repeated attempts to teach the student to do so (i.e., the student is a virtual non-reader, not simply reading below grade level), <b>OR</b> (b.) the student was suddenly and recently classified as legally blind and has not had sufficient opportunity to learn to use Braille materials.<br><b>AND</b><br>2. The student has access to printed materials only through a human reader, sign language interpreter, or other electronic format during routine instruction. |
|              |         |      |         | Non-aggregable | 46       | 118      | Providing sign language interpreter to sign passages or texts for the reading test or text-based writing (or using cued speech or oral interpreter). Indicate with a ✓ ___ all allowable items <b>OR</b> ✓ ___ items requested by student. <b>See protocol for Sign Language Interpreters, Appendix K.</b> |  |
|              |         |      |         | Non-aggregable | 31       | 119      | Presenting the reading passages or texts for the reading test or text-based writing via Kurzweil Software.   |  |

The use of these accommodations for the **Reading** DSTP shall be restricted to the following conditions:

1. The student has a specific disability that severely limits or prevents him or her from decoding text, or from comprehending decoded text, even after varied and repeated attempts to teach the student to do so (i.e., the student is a virtual non-reader, not simply reading below grade level) **OR** (b.) the student was suddenly and recently classified as legally blind and has not had sufficient opportunity to learn to use Braille materials.
2. The student has access to printed materials only through a human reader, sign language interpreter, or other electronic format during routine instruction.

The student must meet **BOTH** of the conditions above to qualify for one of these accommodations during the **Reading** DSTP.

**Continue to the next page to see answers to the frequently asked questions.**

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is a virtual non-reader?

A virtual non-reader has a specific disability that severely limits or prevents him or her from decoding text, or from comprehending decoded text, even after varied and repeated attempts to teach the student to do so. The student is not simply reading below grade level.

### What are some examples of students who do qualify for this accommodation?

#### Example 1: Bobby

Bobby is an 8<sup>th</sup> grade student with a reading disability specific to decoding. . The IEP team has documented that the repeated and varied scientifically-based attempts to teach Bobby to read have been unsuccessful.. Because of the severity of his disability, Bobby only gains meaning from print when using assistive technology (such as Kurzweil, WYNN, Read and Write Gold, JAWS software, etc.) or when another person reads to him. Bobby's case satisfies both conditions required for these accommodations.

#### Example 2: Charita

Charita was blinded due to a blow to the head, two months prior to the March DSTP administration. Her 504 committee has made plans for her to learn to use Braille, but she will not be proficient in Braille in time for the DSTP. Charita can only gain meaning from print through a human reader or by using assistive technology such as recordings or text reading software. Cheryl's case satisfies the conditions required for these accommodations.

### What are some examples of students who do not qualify for this accommodation?

#### Example 3: Cindy

Cindy is a 4<sup>th</sup> grade student who is classified as having a learning disability. She does not currently read on grade level but she is able to comprehend the majority of grade level text. Cindy does not typically require a human reader or assistive technology to gain meaning from print during regular classroom instruction or assessment. Strategies to improve Cindy's decoding skills to move her to grade level text are the focus of her learning plan. Cindy's case does not satisfy either of the conditions required for these accommodations. She does not qualify for accommodations 117, 118, or 119 during the DSTP Reading test.

#### Example 4: Luis

Luis is a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade student who is very bright and has the cognitive capacity to understand, think about, and discuss grade level text. He reads rather slowly and his reading fluency does not fall within grade level norms. During classroom instruction he is given extra time, and uses templates (acetate color sheets). Luis' case does not satisfy either of the conditions required for accommodations 117, 118, or 119. However, other accommodations are available that more closely match his classroom instructional accommodations. For example, he uses 116 (templates) and 401 (completing the test over multiple sessions).

#### Example 5: Dah Lie

Dah Lie is a 10<sup>th</sup> grade student who struggles with the large amount of reading required at this grade level. She is able to read and comprehend the material but alternate formats are available as support, such as audio recordings and reading software. Dah Lie's case does not satisfy the conditions required for accommodations 117, 118, or 119 during the DSTP Reading test..

#### Example 6: Jai:

Jai is a 6<sup>th</sup> grade student with a physical disability (orthopedic impairment or 504). He is unable to turn pages of print material. However, his rate of learning is consistent with grade level peers. During classroom instruction and assessment, Jai may receive the following accommodations: a mechanical page turner, peer and/or paraprofessional assistance, or other assistive technology supports. . This student does not meet the requirements for accommodations 117, 118, and 119, but may utilize accommodations 210 (scribe), 306 (special furniture), and 113 (physical assistance).