

# Accommodations and Modifications in Special Education



**DECEMBER 2015 BOARD REPORT**

# What is an Accommodation?



- A change that helps a student overcome or work around his/her disability.
- Levels the playing field for a student by changing how he/she works through the general education curriculum
- Typically environmental or physical changes
- Examples: preferential seating, extended time on assignments, use of wider lined paper for written tasks, sign language interpreter, large print books

# What is a Modification?



- A change in what is being taught to or expected of a student.
- A modification alters the field or game entirely. Modifications change what is learned and, therefore, the content of the grade level curriculum.
- Examples: alternative reading books at independent reading level, reduction of homework or classwork, simplified vocabulary or concepts, tests written at a lower level of understanding

# Page 8 of the IEP



- Page 8 of the IEP addresses modifications and accommodations in specific categories:
  - Materials/Books/Equipment
  - Tests/Quizzes/Assessments
  - Grading
  - Organization
  - Environment
  - Behavior Interventions and Supports
  - Instructional Strategies
  - Other
  - Supports for School Personnel

# Fair Isn't Always Equal...



- Teachers provide students with what they need to be successful. As a result, these supports are not the same for each child.
- Modifications and accommodations are discussed at PPTs where individualized decisions are made based on the needs of the student.